Vol.19

ROKUDA NOBORU

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RESURRECTION

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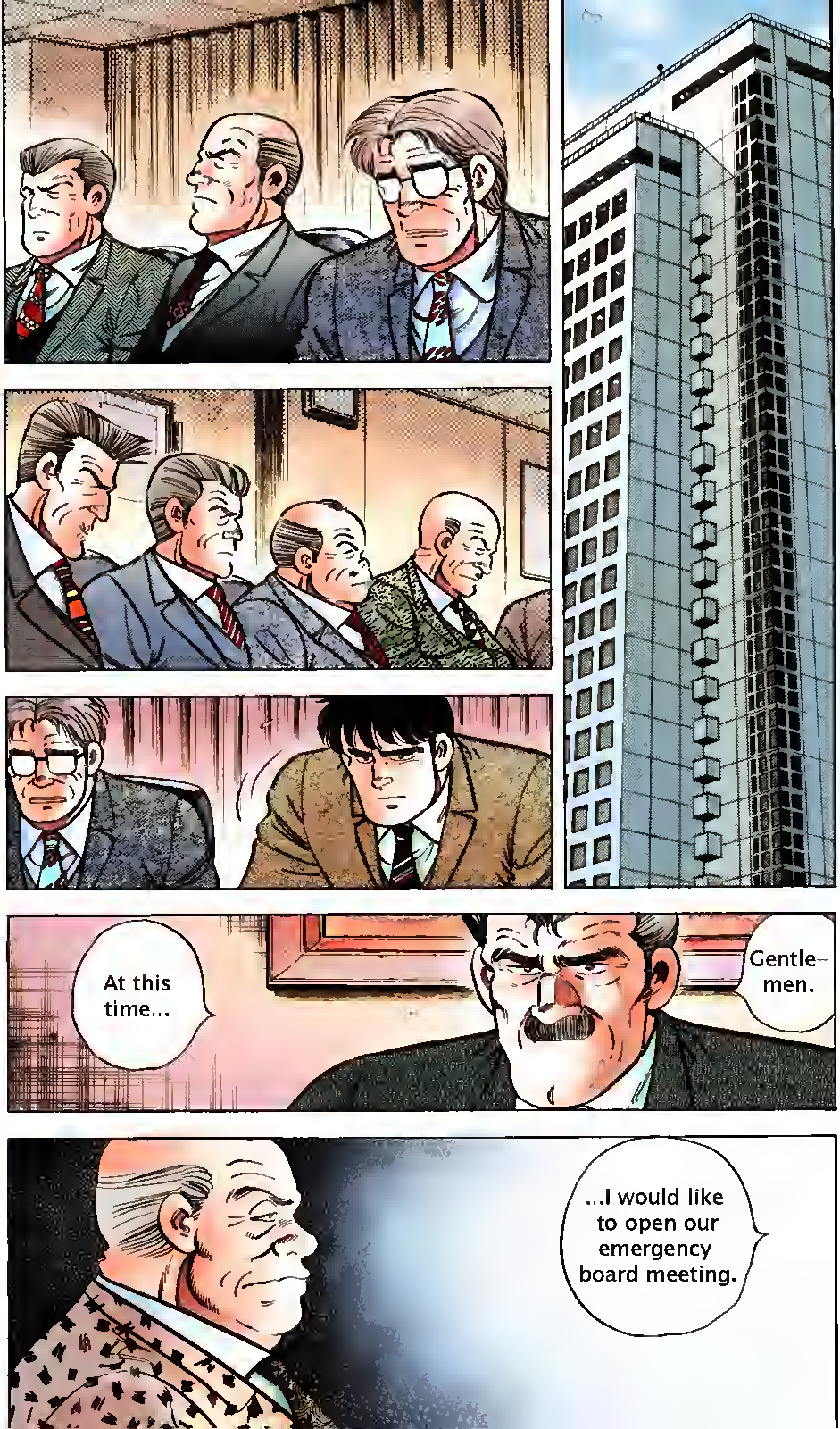
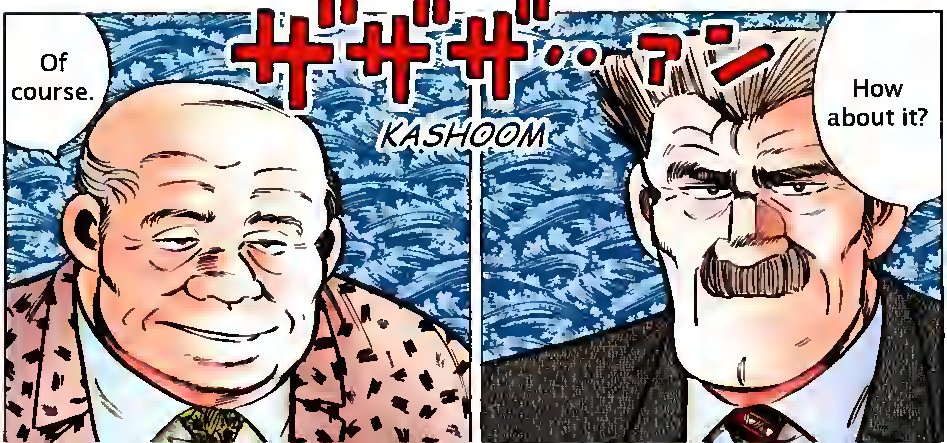
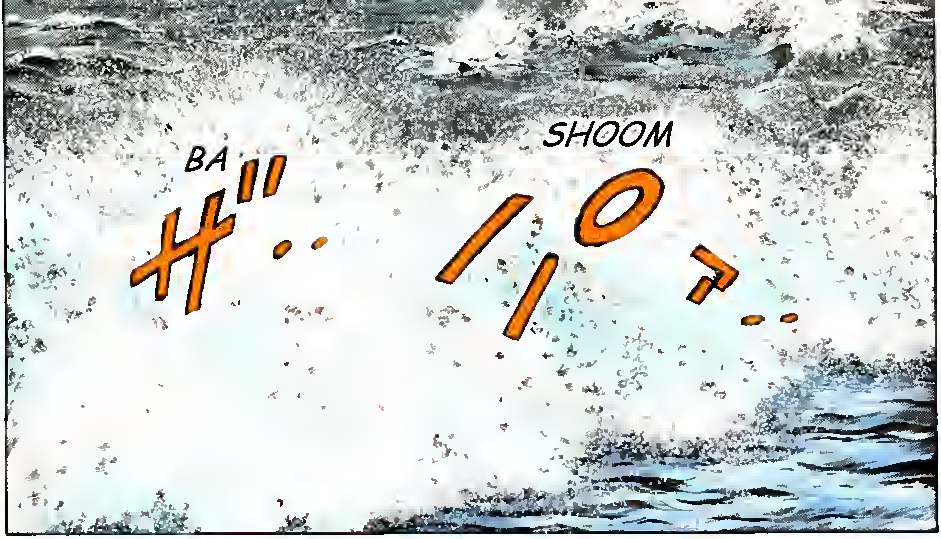
Chapter 1:
Fight to Survive

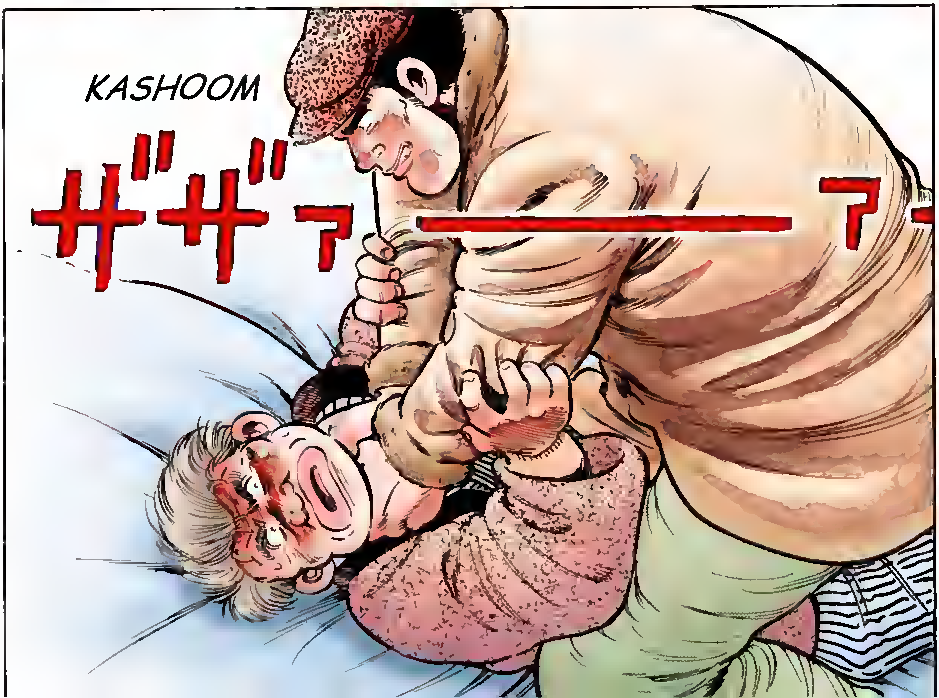

At this time...
Gentle-men.
...I would like to open our emergency board meeting.

At the last shareholders meeting, Mr. Tagawa here was newly appointed as one of our board members.
And since we are here today at the explicit request of Mr. Tagawa...
...I would ask him to enlighten us on the agenda.

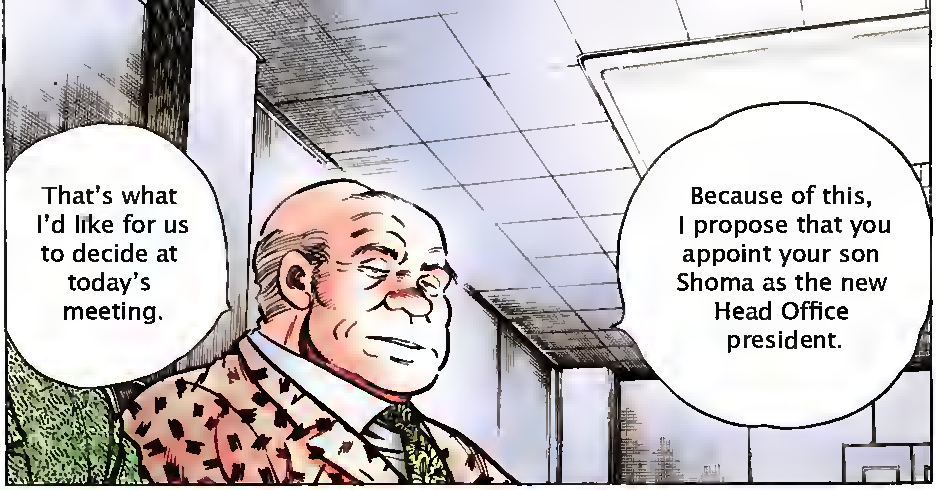

ガガガ…ン
KASHOOM
Of course.
How about it?


BA
SHOOM

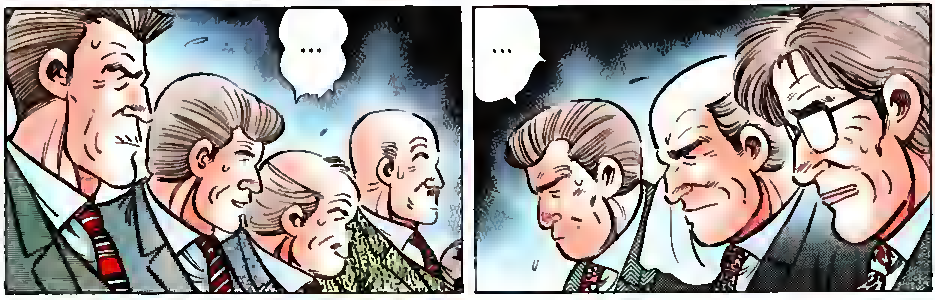
SHAAAA


KASHOOM

Ungh
Hurrg
Hurrg
Ugh...
Urrgh
...
...I'll make sure you're dead.
This time...
I'm... scared... Can't breathe...
What...
Who...
KRRRRK
Soichiro, I know how busy you've been with your campaign.
And if you're elected, you'll be even more detached from us here, which is a genuine concern for the company's well-being.
KASHOOOM
ガバァァァン・・・


That's what I'd like for us to decide at today's meeting.
Because of this, I propose that you appoint your son Shoma as the new Head Office president.

Anyone?
Then I'd be interested in hearing from the other board members on this proposal.
I see.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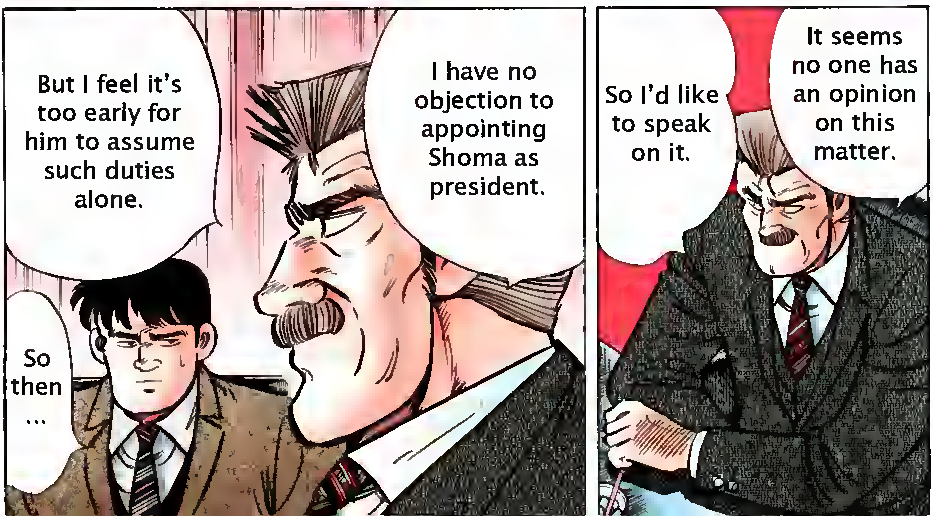
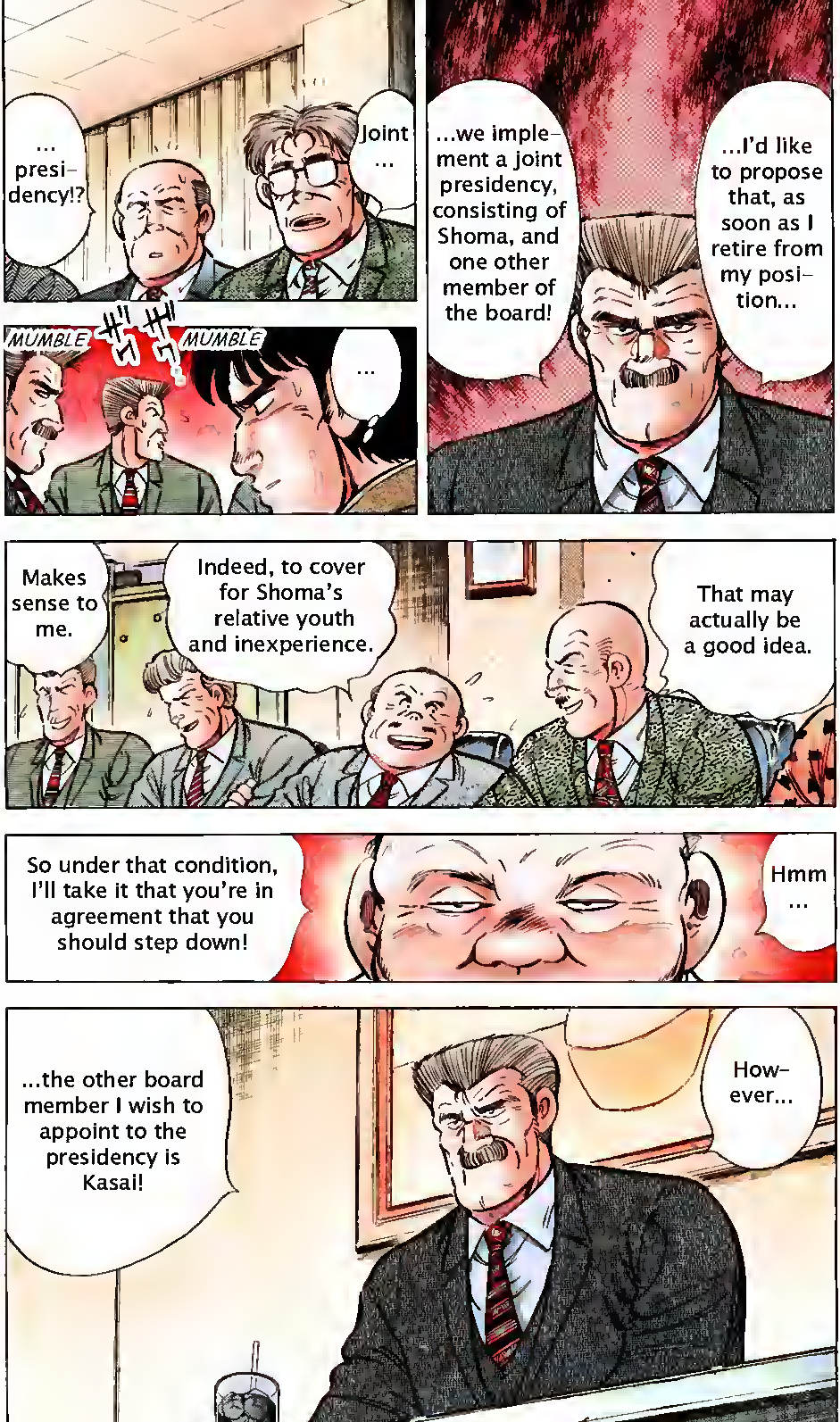
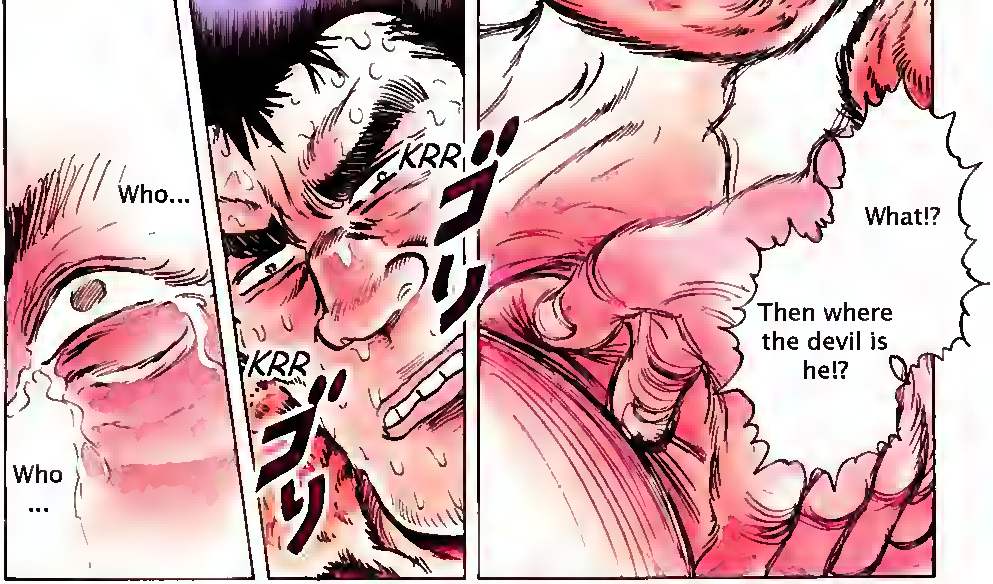
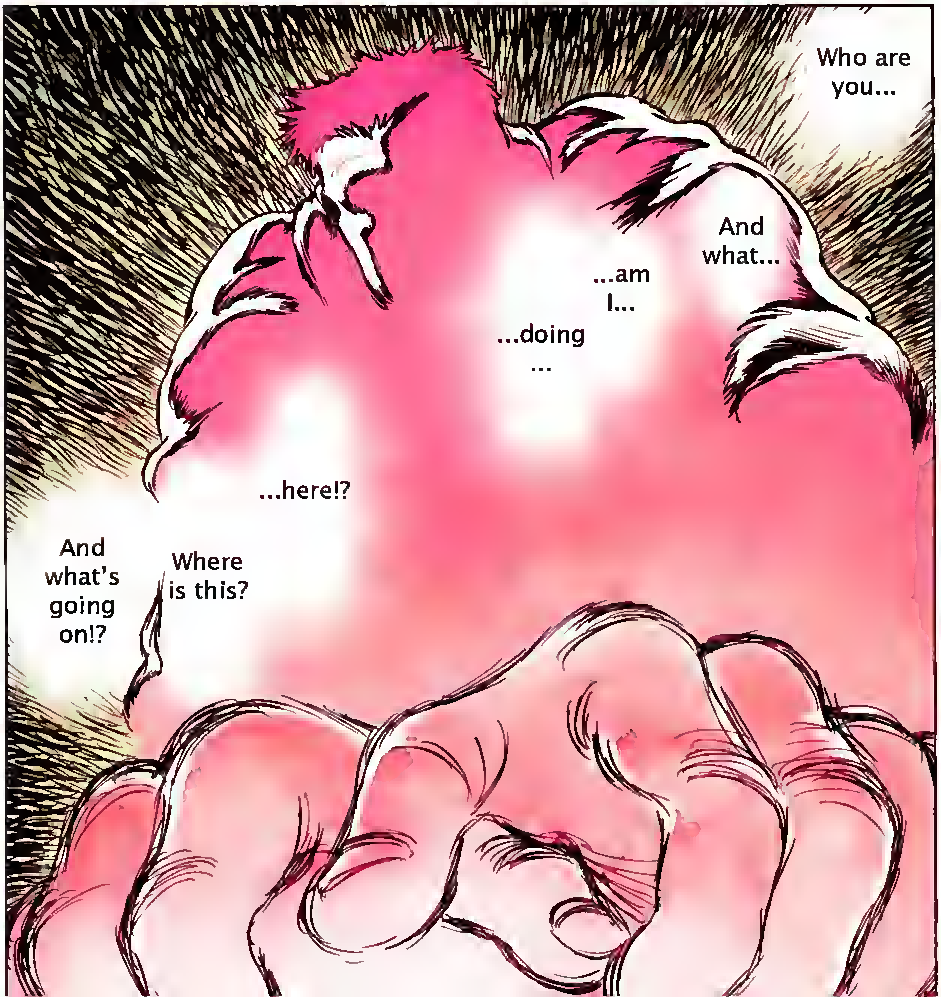
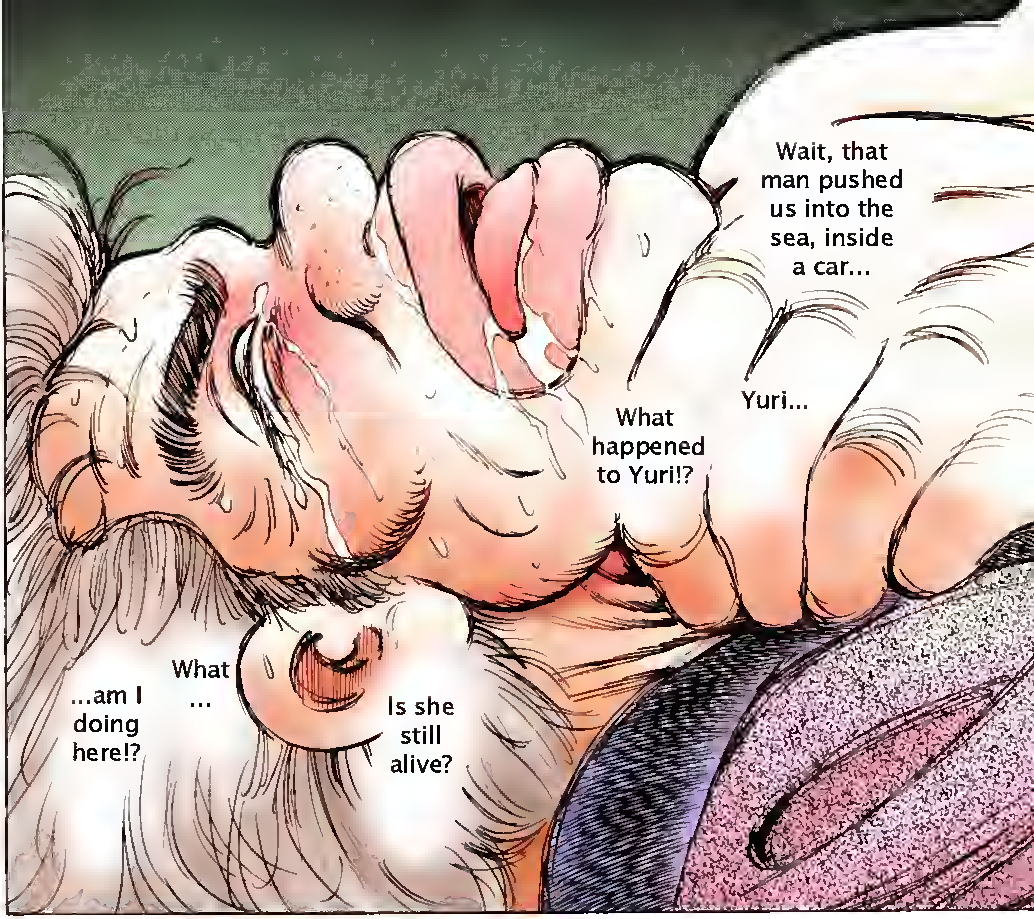

But I feel it's too early for him to assume such duties alone.
I have no objection to appointing Shoma as president.
So then ...
So I'd like to speak on it.
It seems no one has an opinion on this matter.

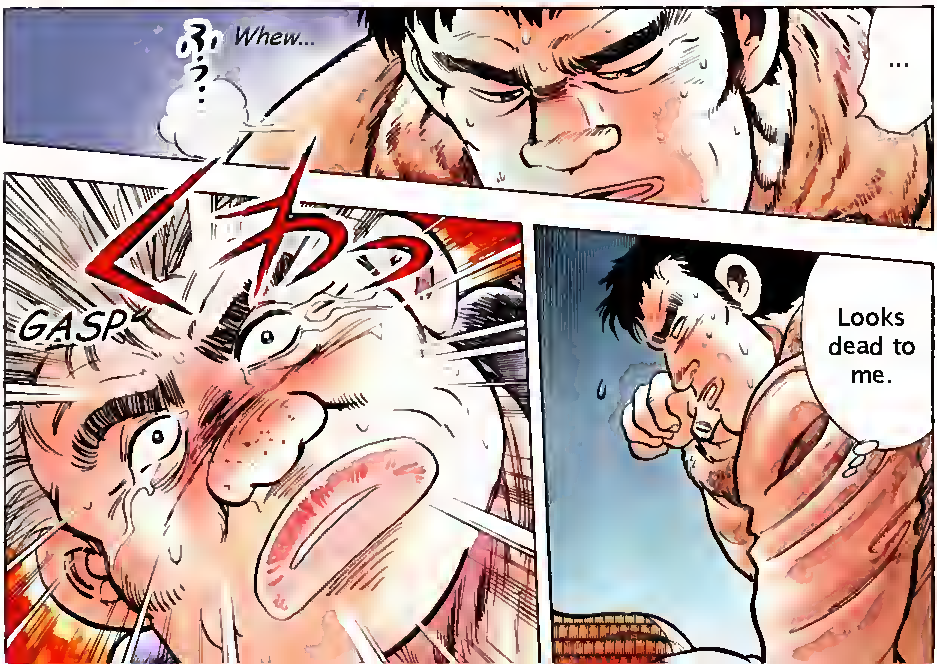

...presi-dency!?
Joint...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
...
...we imple-ment a joint presidency, consisting of Shoma, and one other member of the board!
...I'd like to propose that, as soon as I retire from my posi-tion...
Makes sense to me.
Indeed, to cover for Shoma's relative youth and inexperience.
That may actually be a good idea.
So under that condition, I'll take it that you're in agreement that you should step down!
Hmm...
...the other board member I wish to appoint to the presidency is Kasai!
How-ever...

Kasai has been missing for a long time now, and we don't even know if he's alive or dead. How could you fathom appointing someone in such a predicament?
HM HM HM
Well, well... It seems this whole campaign has taken a toll on your common sense.
HUH?
ポカーン
...and he would be an ideal successor! So far, I refuse to step down for anyone else!
I've discussed my vision for Akagi Group with Kasai...
GLARE
ギロ
And could very well be dead!
POUND
ドン
But Kasai is missing!
I received a phone call this morning!
On the contrary, Kasai is alive and well!

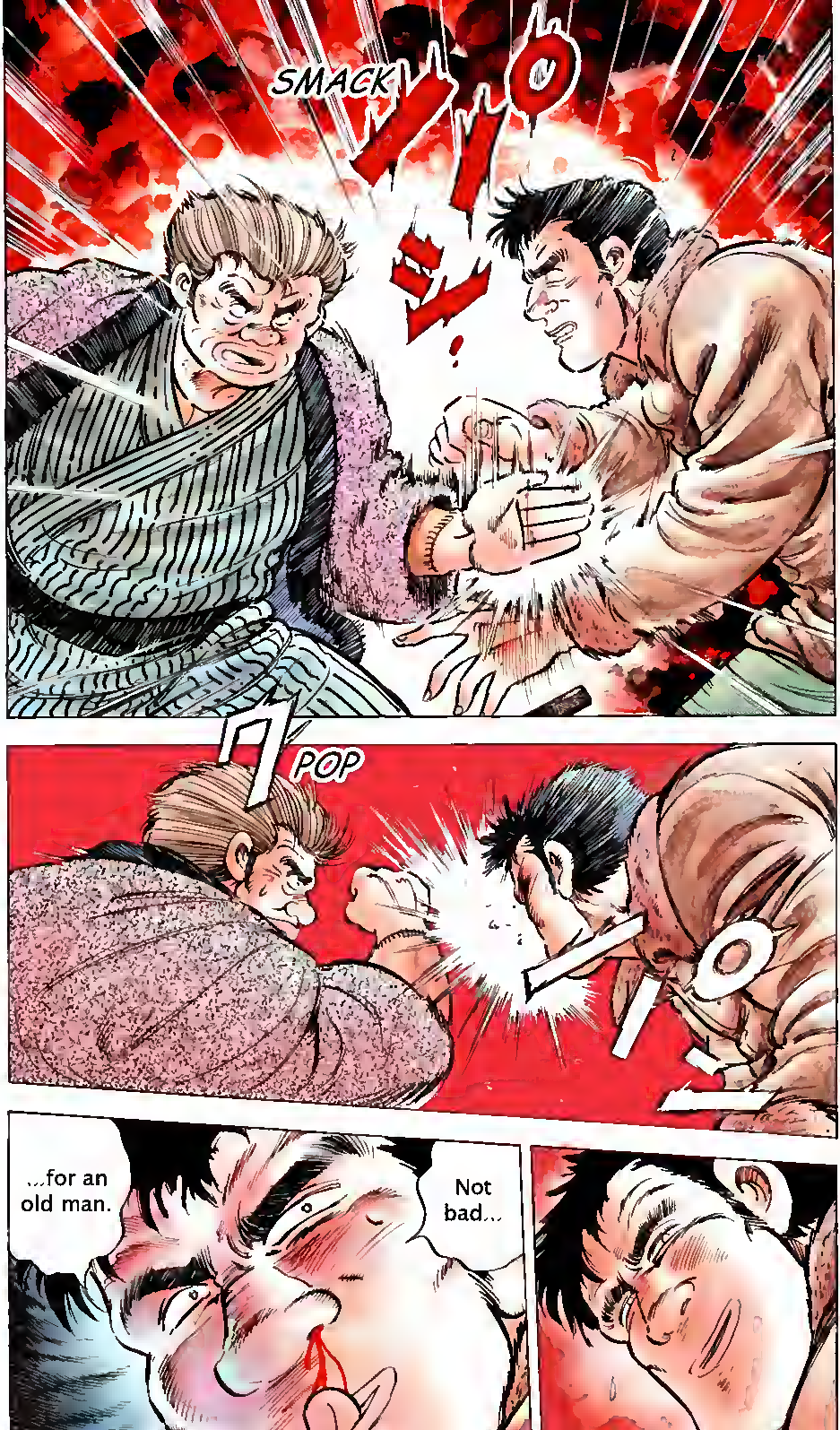

Who...
Who ...
KRR
ゴリ
KRR
ゴリ
What!?
Then where the devil is he!?

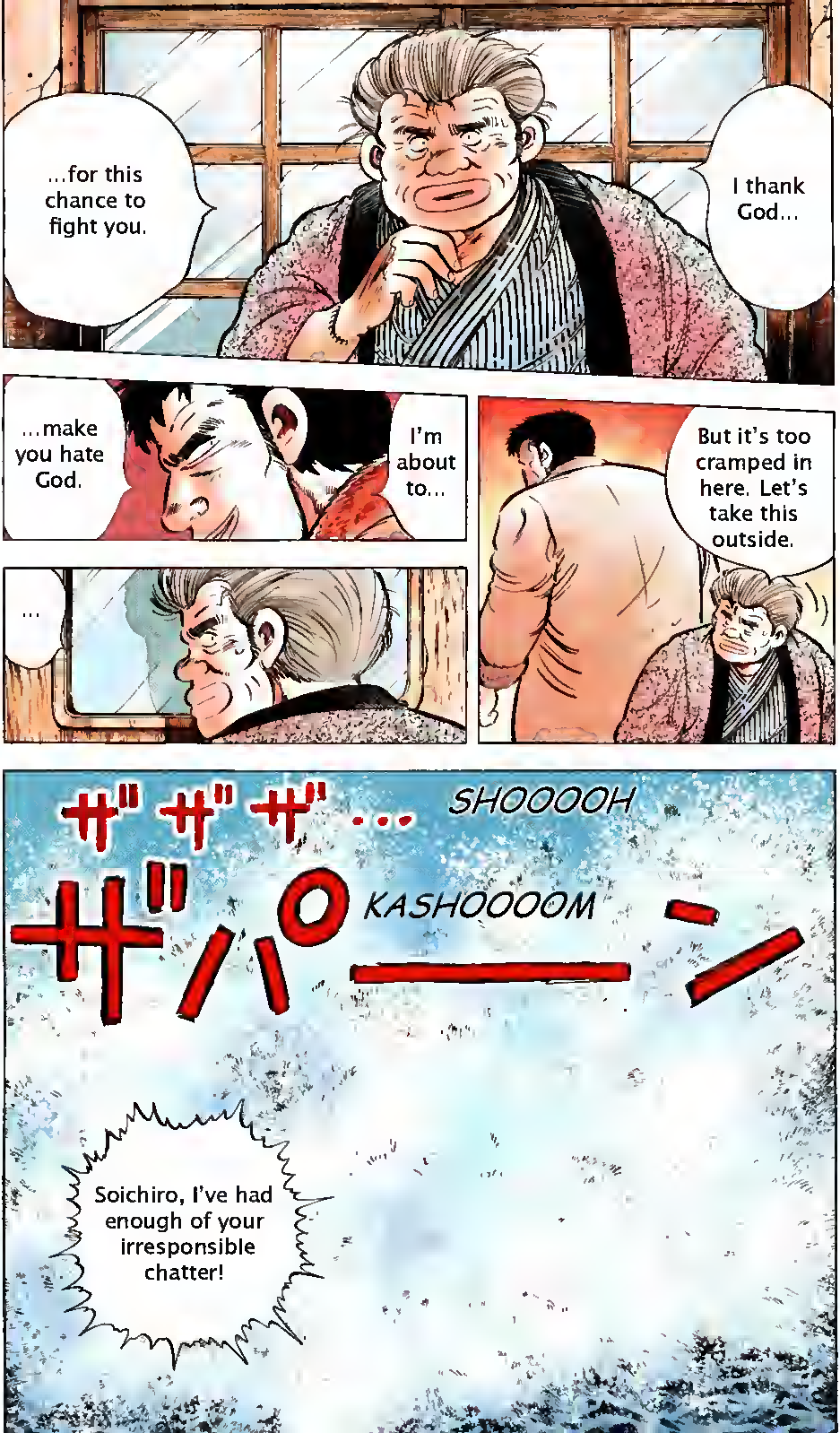

Who are you...
And what...
...am I...
...doing ...
...here!?
And what's going on!?
Where is this?

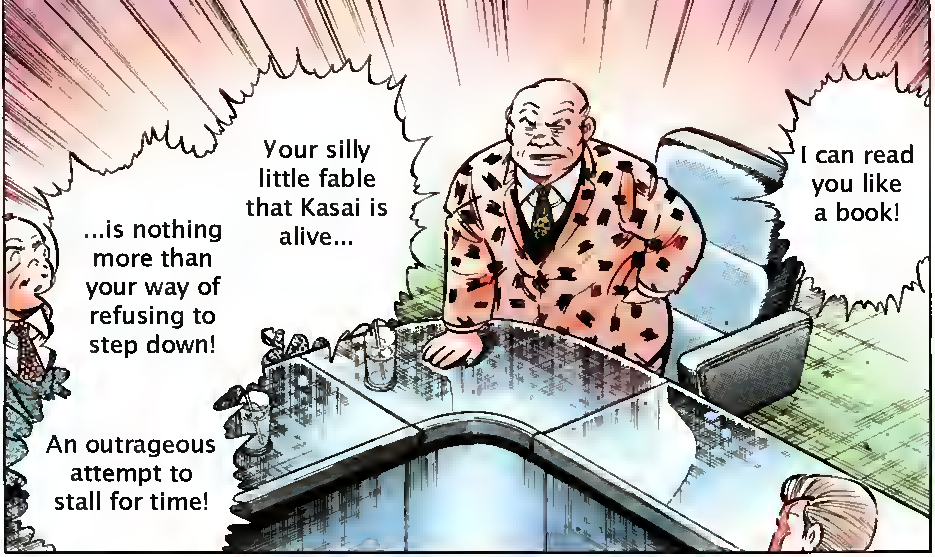

Wait, that man pushed us into the sea, inside a car...
Yuri...
What happened to Yuri!?
What ...
...am I doing here!?
Is she still alive?


Whew...
...
GASP
Looks dead to me.

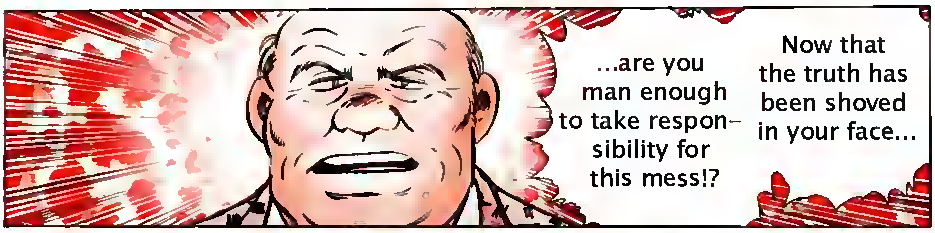
ゴゲホ
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
Dam-
mit.
!!
What is this place?
Cough cough... Am I in hell!?
Oof.
BAM
I'm about to send you there.
Right at the gates, old man.
!
She'll be back any minute, so I gotta make quick work of you.
SHING
What happe-ned to Yuri!?
It's you.

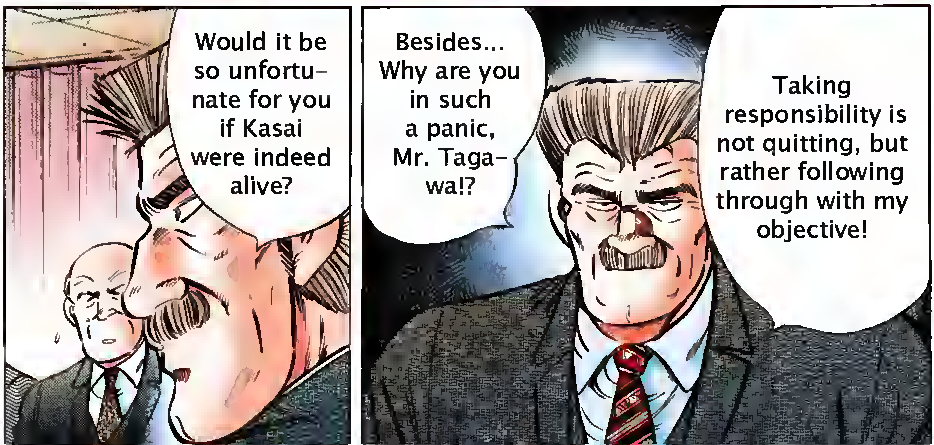

SMACK
POP
Not bad...
...for an old man.

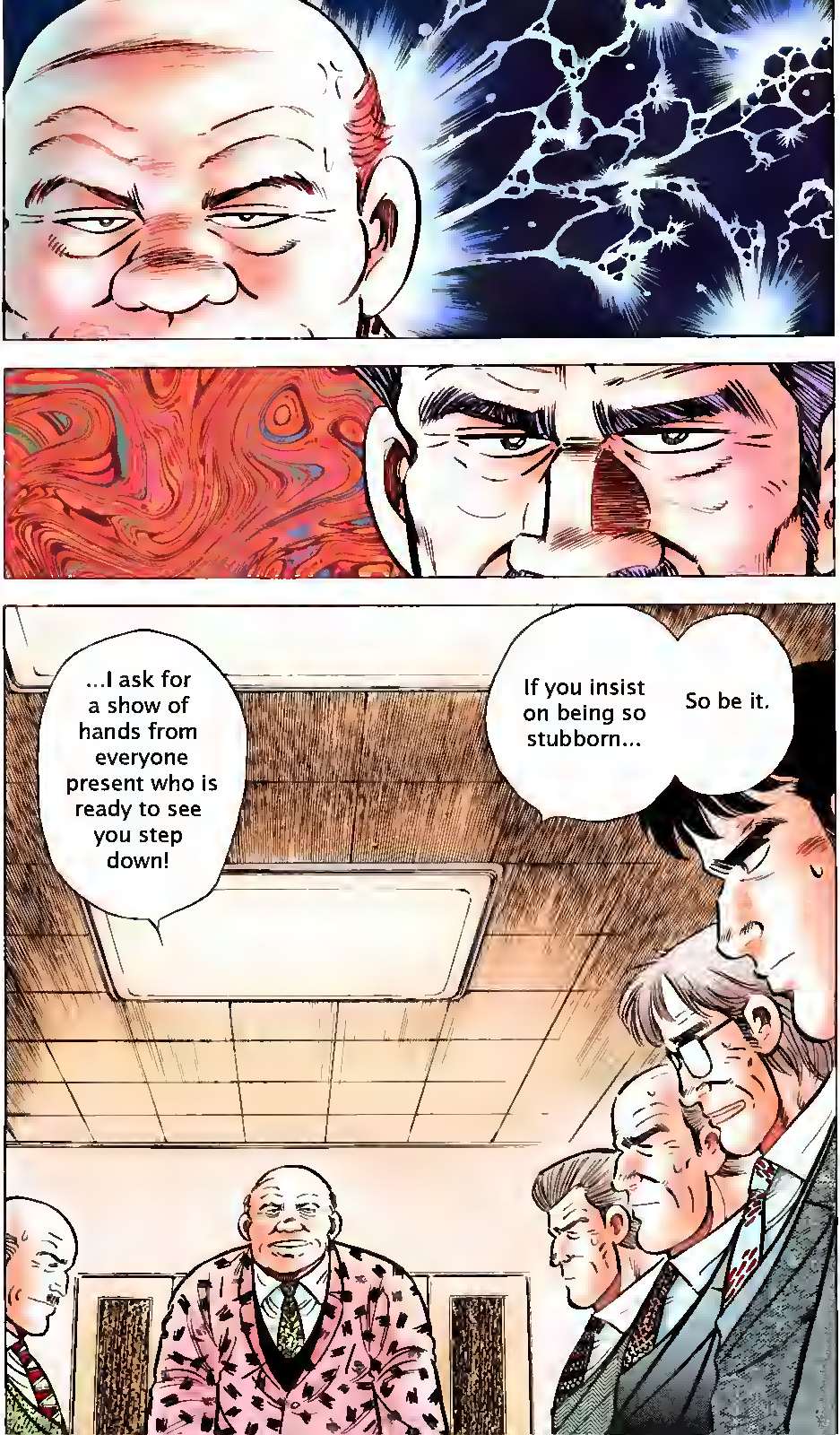

...for this chance to fight you.
I thank God...
...make you hate God.
I'm about to...
But it's too cramped in here. Let's take this outside.
...
ﾊﾞﾊﾞﾊﾞ...
SHOOOOH
ﾊﾞﾊﾟｰﾝ
KASHOOOOM
Soichiro, I've had enough of your irresponsible chatter!


Your silly little fable that Kasai is alive...
I can read you like a book!
...is nothing more than your way of refusing to step down!
An outrageous attempt to stall for time!

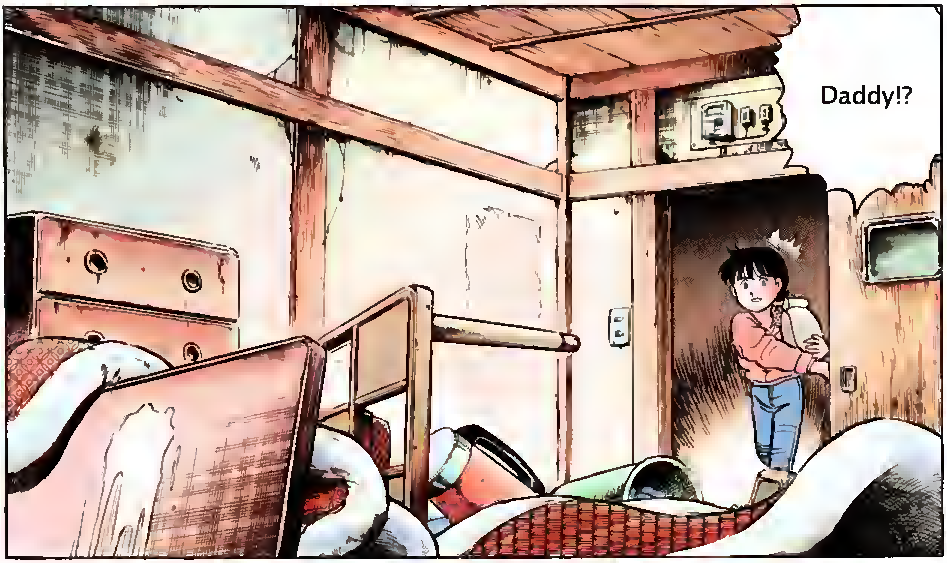
...has sent a jolt of crisis down the spine of everyone from top to bottom!
...and attempting to throw the entire Group into chaos...
Trying to force your own selfish way of life on everyone else for the sake of your election...

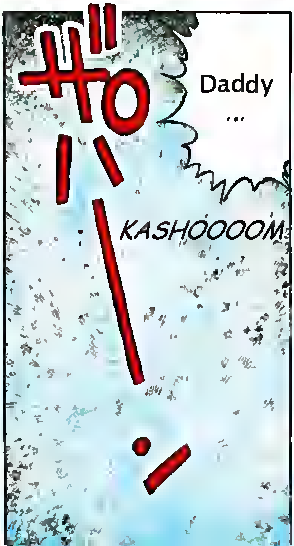

...are you man enough to take responsibility for this mess!?
Now that the truth has been shoved in your face...

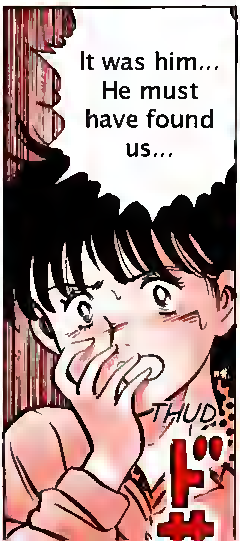

Would it be so unfortunate for you if Kasai were indeed alive?
Besides... Why are you in such a panic, Mr. Tagawa!?
Taking responsibility is not quitting, but rather following through with my objective!


...I ask for a show of hands from everyone present who is ready to see you step down!
If you insist on being so stubborn...
So be it.

Sorry to leave you alone like...
I m back, Daddy!

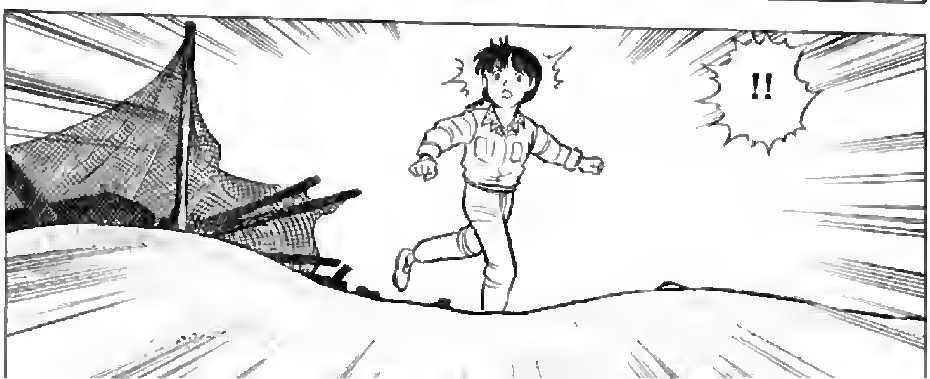

Daddy!?


Daddy ...
KASHOOOOM


It was him... He must have found us...
THUD
ド

This can't be...
It just can't be!

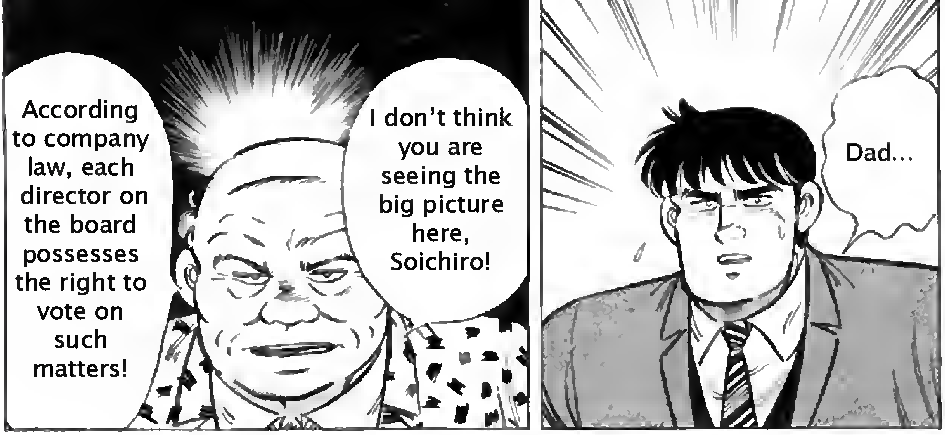
KASHOOOM


!!

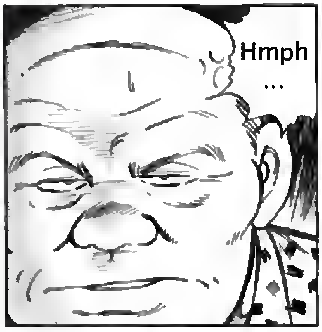
...Kasai!
Mr...
KASHOOOM

Chapter 2: Uncle Tatsu's Prologue

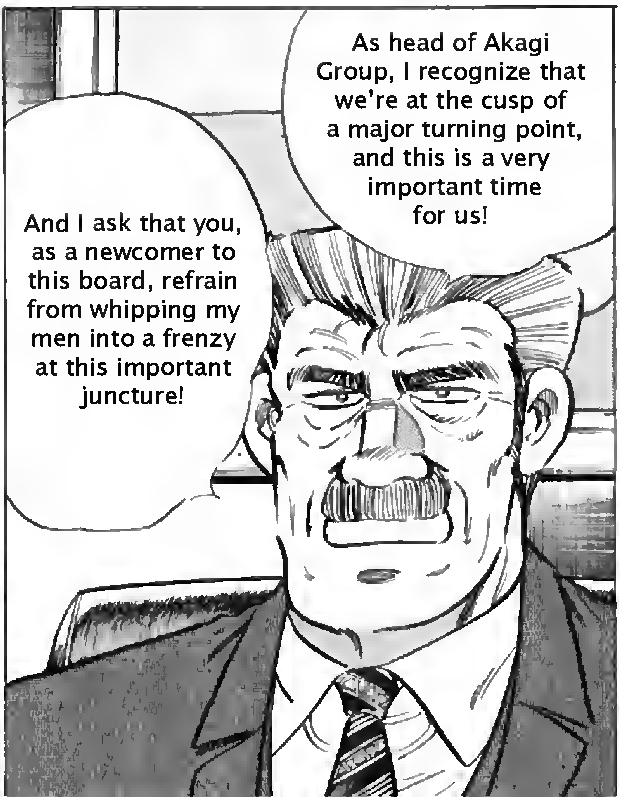
Do you object, Mr. Akagi!?
We'll have the board determine whether or not you stay on as president!
As long as you refuse to accept my plan for a joint presidency, I will never resign!
No. I will not allow it.


According to company law, each director on the board possesses the right to vote on such matters!
I don't think you are seeing the big picture here, Soichiro!
Dad...

We've all been in the same boat since the war, sharing a common bond!
I'm afraid you're the one ignorant of how things are done in my company, Mr. Tagawa.

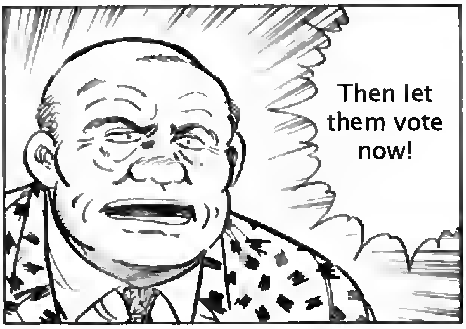

Hmph ...

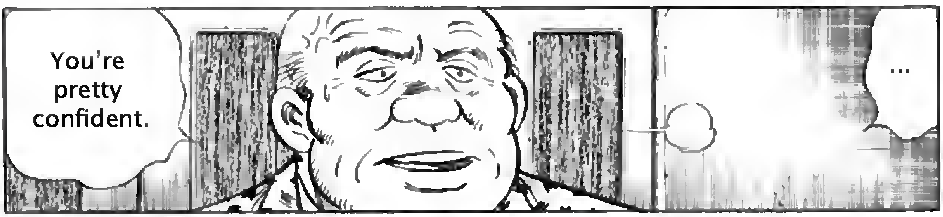
This board of direc-tors...

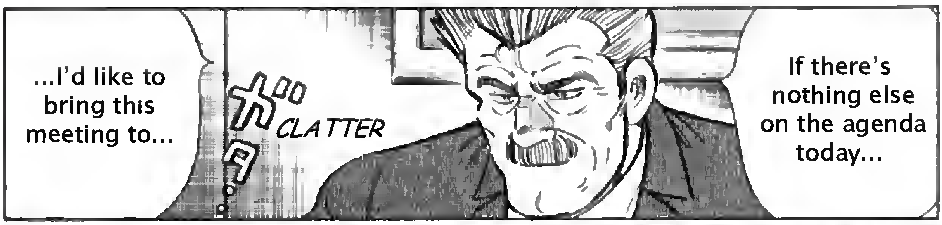

As head of Akagi Group, I recognize that we're at the cusp of a major turning point, and this is a very important time for us!
And I ask that you, as a newcomer to this board, refrain from whipping my men into a frenzy at this important juncture!

...and we all agree that there is currently no need for a change in organization or personnel!
...will make decisions according to our established corporate philosophy...

That won't be necessary!

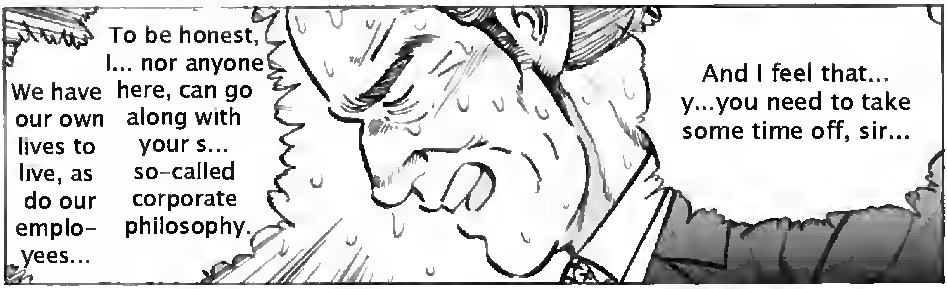

Then let them vote now!

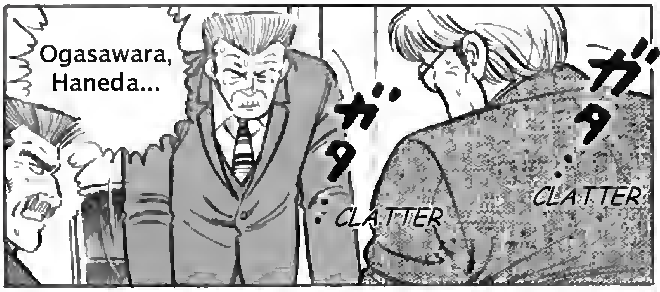

You're pretty confident.
...


...I'd like to bring this meeting to...
CLATTER
If there's nothing else on the agenda today...

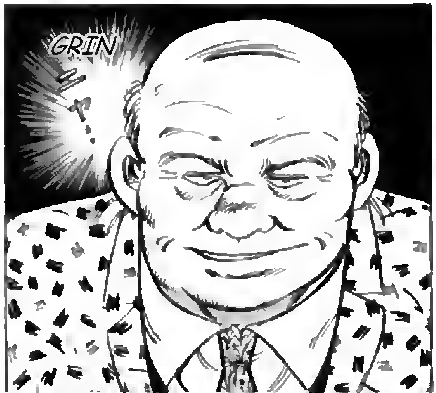
!?

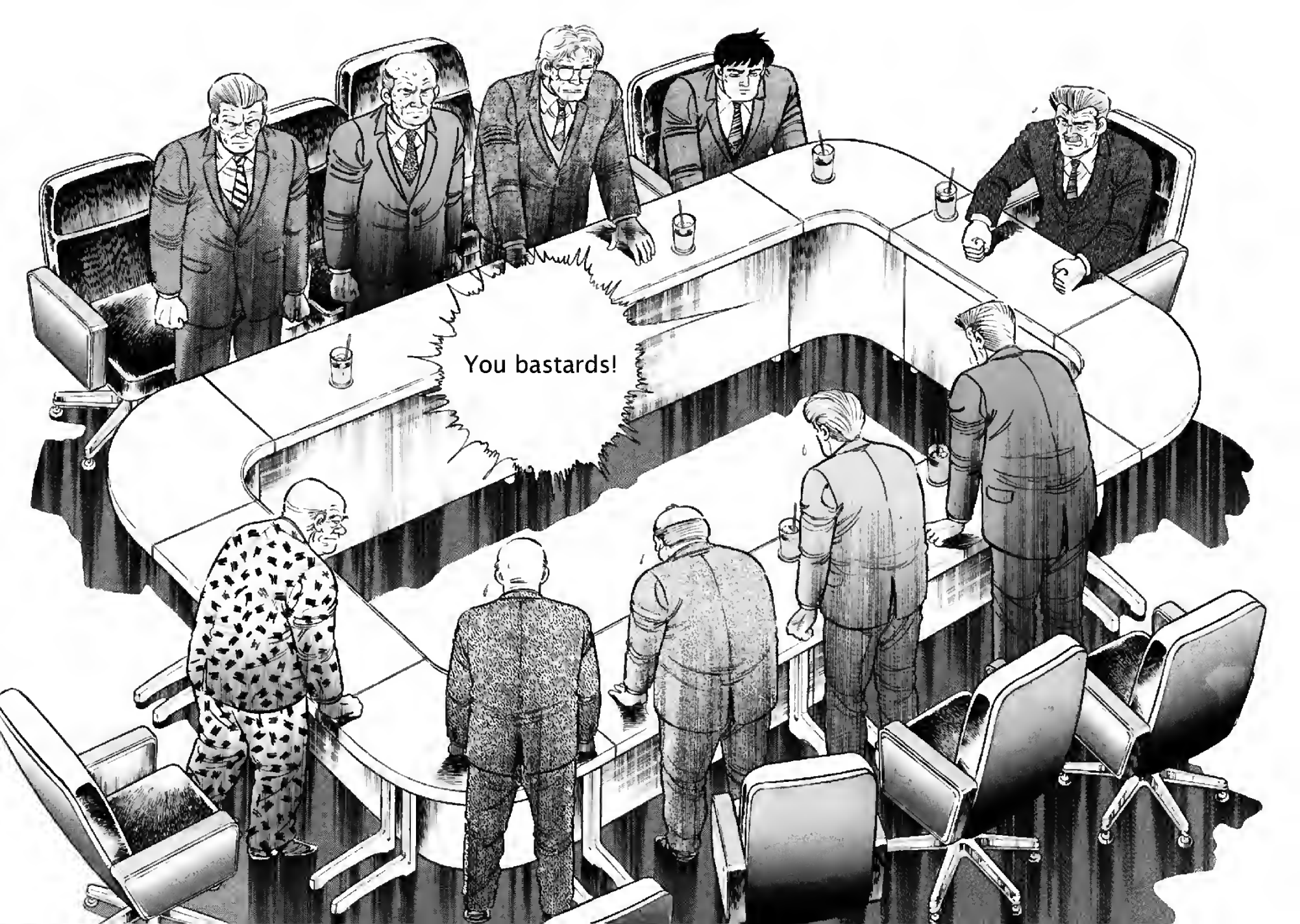
President Akagi... If I may...
We all have the right to v...vote according to law.
Nakagu-ma...!

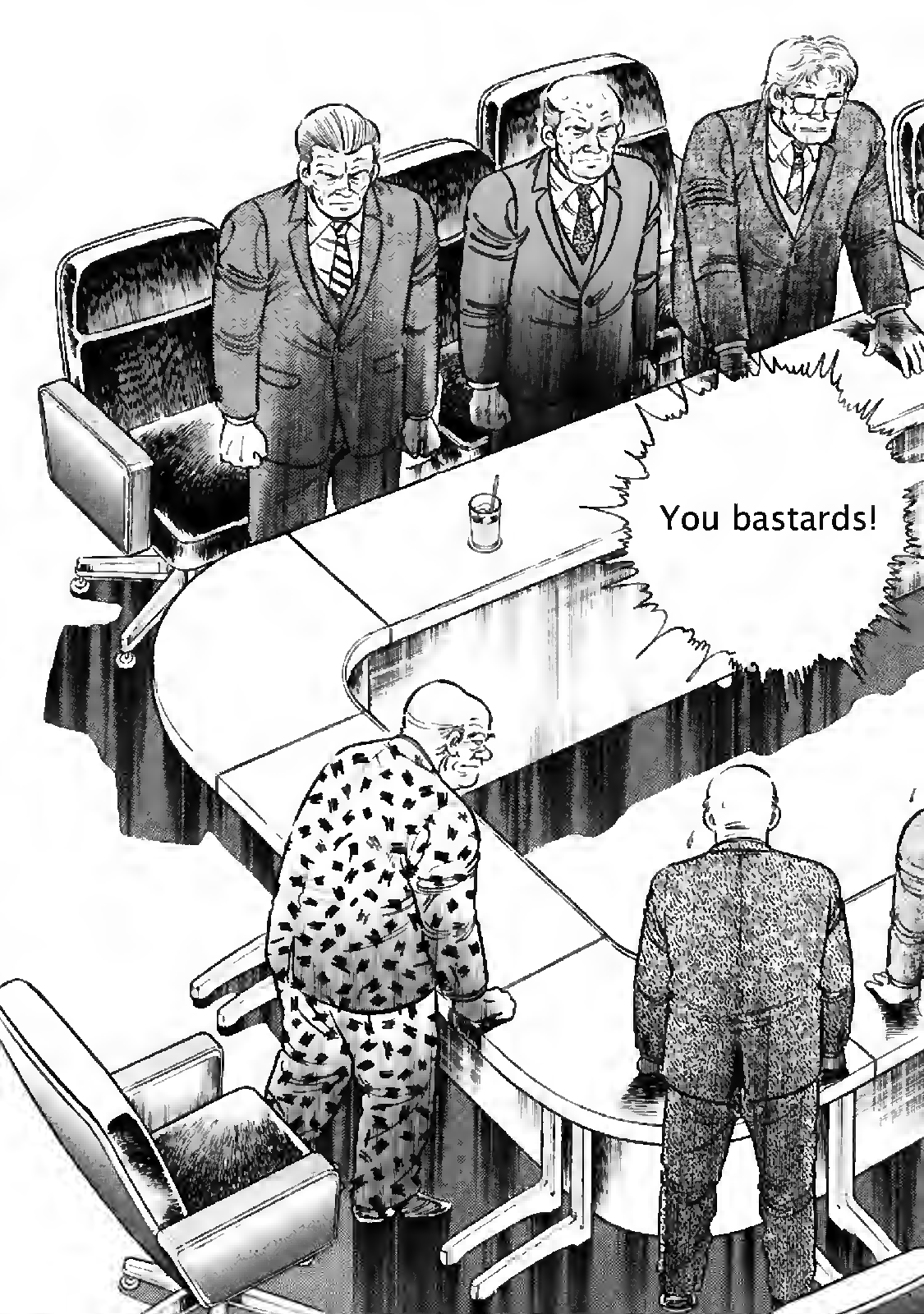

We have our own lives to live, as do our emplo-yees...
To be honest, I... nor anyone here, can go along with your s... so-called corporate philosophy.
And I feel that... y...you need to take some time off, sir...


Ogasawara, Haneda...
ガタ
CLATTER
ガタ
CLATTER

Nakaguma, you bastard...

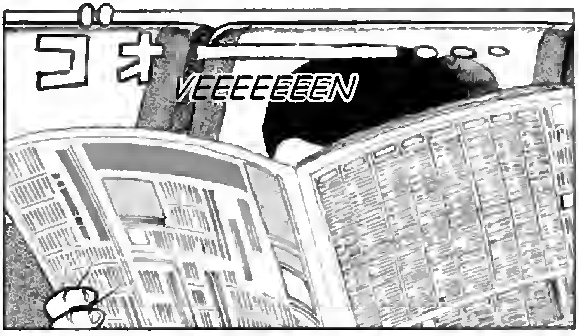

GRIN


You bastards!

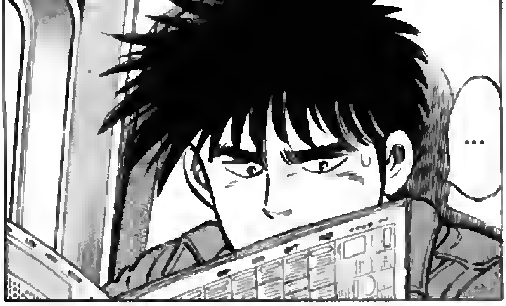

You bastards!

BRITISH AIRWAYS
VEEEEEEEN
キィィー

赤木総一郎氏
Soichiro Akagi
Resigns
政界引退
Denies coup d'etat rumors,
invests all energy
in political campaign

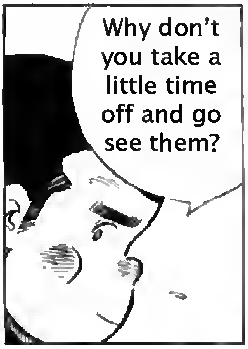

コォー
VEEEEEEEN

クーデター説を
めぐって選挙に全力投球

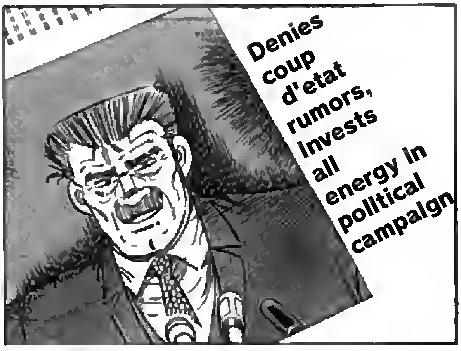

...

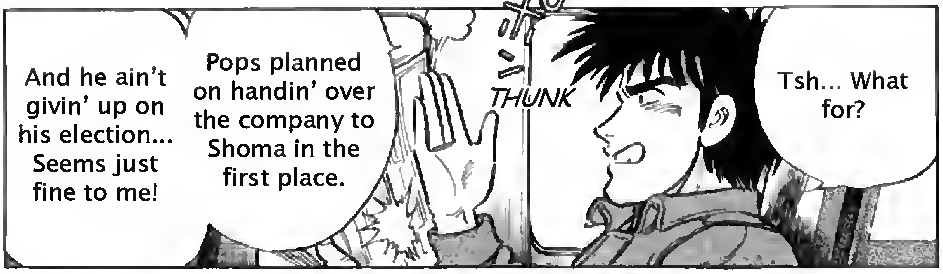
Still scared of flying
FWIP
Gun-ma... Take a look...

That's gonna be tough at his young age.
It looks like Shoma's gonna be the next president.


Why don't you take a little time off and go see them?

...

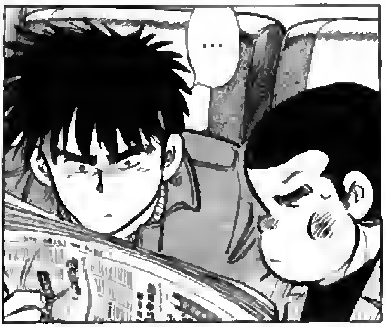

Denies coup d'etat rumors, invests all energy in political campaign


And he ain't givin' up on his election... Seems just fine to me!
Pops planned on handin' over the company to Shoma in the first place.
THUNK
Tsh... What for?

... picture at the press confe-rence.
But there's somethin' weird about his...

It's almost like he's cryin' or something.
Like what?

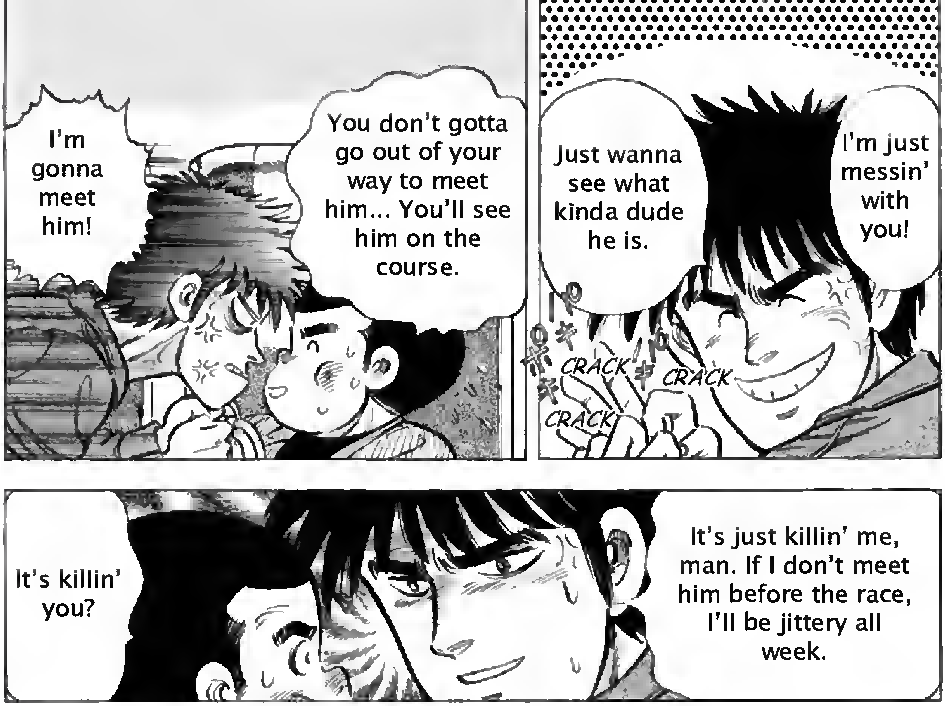
Soulless dictators don't cry! Ha ha ha ha!
Ha!


...

Car tuning, hiring mechanics, finding sponsors...
And the Piglet
Oink
I gotta start over from scratch, tryin' to make this team work with the Bear and the Black Fox here!
You should be worryin' about my situation, not his!

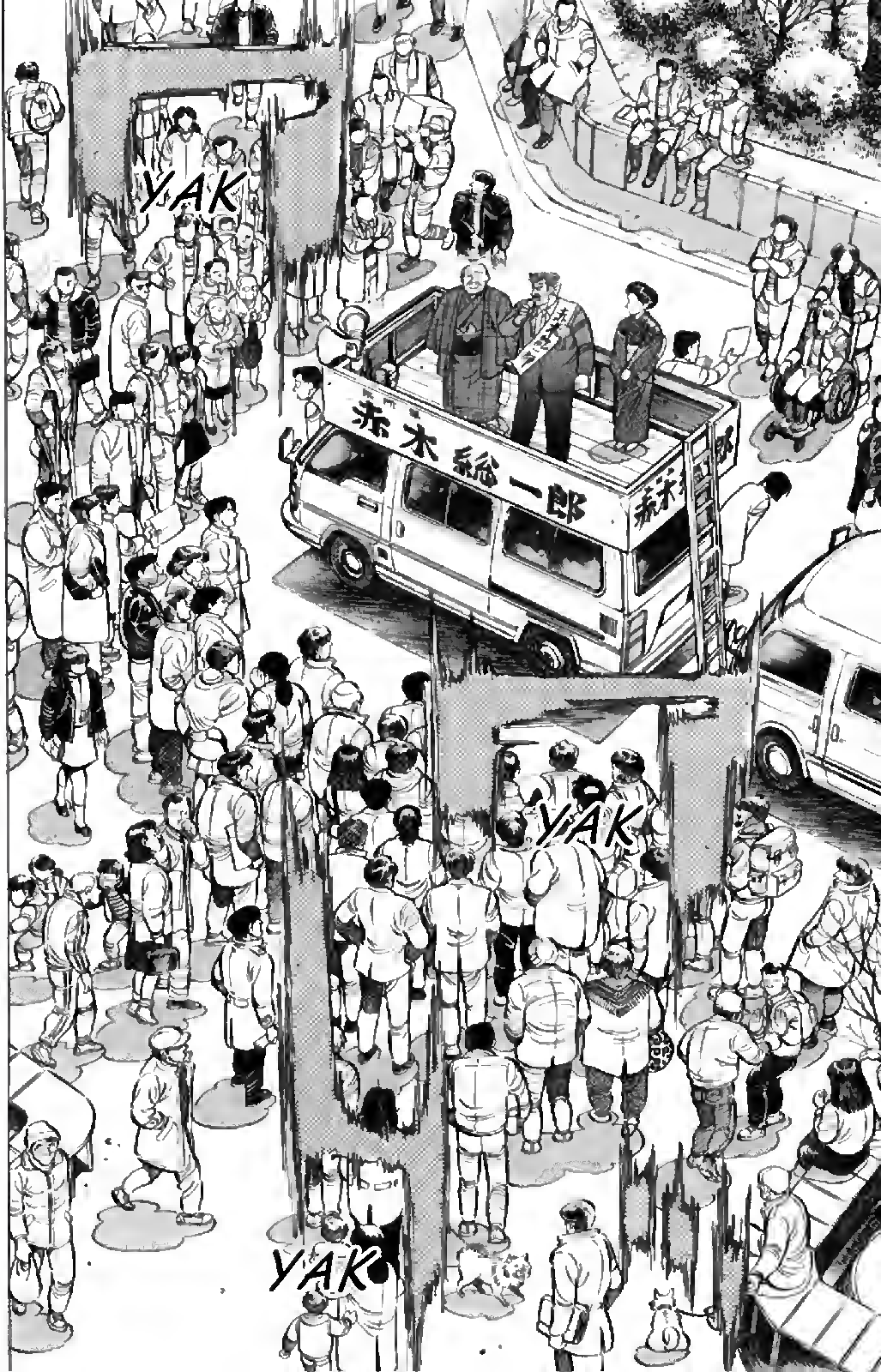
You mean... You're gonna fight him?

Rough up?
...I gotta rough up that Jesus Christ character who stole my spot.
Plus ...
SMACK


I'm gonna meet him!
You don't gotta go out of your way to meet him... You'll see him on the course.
Just wanna see what kinda dude he is.
I'm just messin' with you!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK

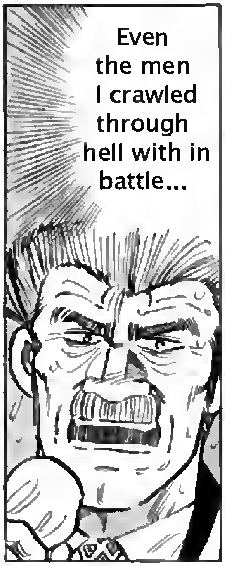
It's killin' you?
It's just killin' me, man. If I don't meet him before the race, I'll be jittery all week.

Yeah, I just got this weird feelin'.
?
VEEEEEEEEN


YAK
赤木総一郎
YAK
YAK

Wallowing in the wealth of these modern times...
So this is how it ends...
Even the men I crawled through hell with in battle...
赤木恭一郎

Kasai ...


Even the men I crawled through hell with in battle...

...have become – mentally soft, reeking of self-interest...
...like drug addicts in search of their next high...
...turning their backs on the greatness they could achieve, and willing to betray me to save their own skins.
赤

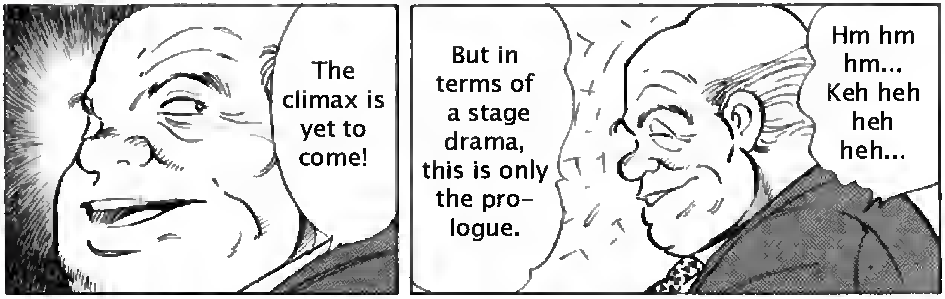
But if that's true...
...why don't you show yourself!?
Where are you, Kasai? The girl said you're alive and well.
赤木恭一郎

...
CHATTER
CHATTER
Have you become like the others?
Afraid to move out of your comfort zone, slowly wasting away your life steeped in luxury!?
Honey ...
As long as this sprawling wasteland sneers at me...
...I will not lose, even if I'm completely alone!
I won't lose.
I will not lose!

赤木誠一郎
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
Where are you going, honey?

HA HA HA
What a tired line.
Into some-thing great, he says!
Soichiro Akagi asks for your support!
To everyone voting!
Make me into some-thing great!

You really did it, Mr. Tagawa! Boy what I'd give to be a fly on the wall of that board meeting!
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...
Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...

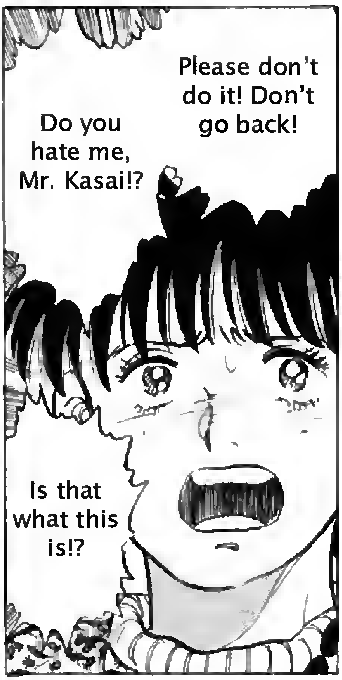

The climax is yet to come!
But in terms of a stage drama, this is only the pro-logue.
Hm hm hm... Keh heh heh heh...

Use these photos to demand a divorce from Shoma!
PLUNK
!?
It pains me to do this, but I have one more job for you.
You've served me well in all this, Ayako.
Uncle ...

Tagawa, how on earth did you...?
What are these?
Go to various media outlets, and make it as scandalous as you can!
Since Ayako gave Shoma the cold shoulder, I invited him out on the town.
If these leak to the public during Soichiro's campaign, they're both finished!
Shoma was already caught with that girl Yuki in a similar situation, and now this. He never learns... Hm hm hm...
Then the Akagi Head Office, and the entire Group for that matter, will be mine! Ha ha ha ha!
Soichiro will lose the presidency, lose his precious election, and his dear son's scandalous behavior will prevent him from becoming president, or even keeping his seat on the board!

What's left there for you!? What sort of joy can you find there!?
Back to that horrible world...
Why are you insisting on going back...?

...
SHIFF

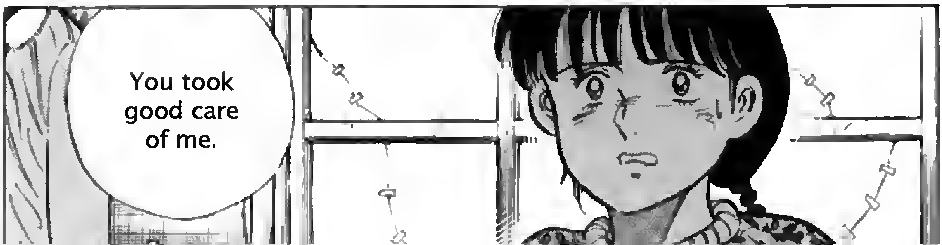

Please don't do it! Don't go back!
Do you hate me, Mr. Kasai!?
Is that what this is!?

Chapter 3: The Copy

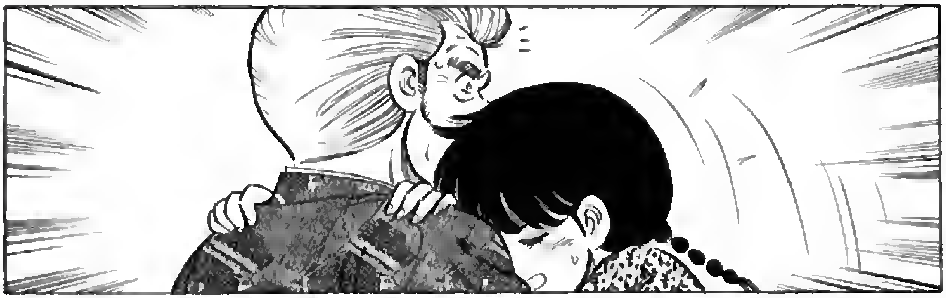
KASHOOM

Mr. Kasai!

I have to go back.
Nothing you can say will change my mind, Yuri.


You took good care of me.

...I can't leave Mr. Akagi alone.
Please understand!
But...
And I'm grateful.
Mr. Kasai...



No, not you... It's too dangerous.
And I promised I'd watch your fight to the end.
I tried my best.
Go back to your old life.

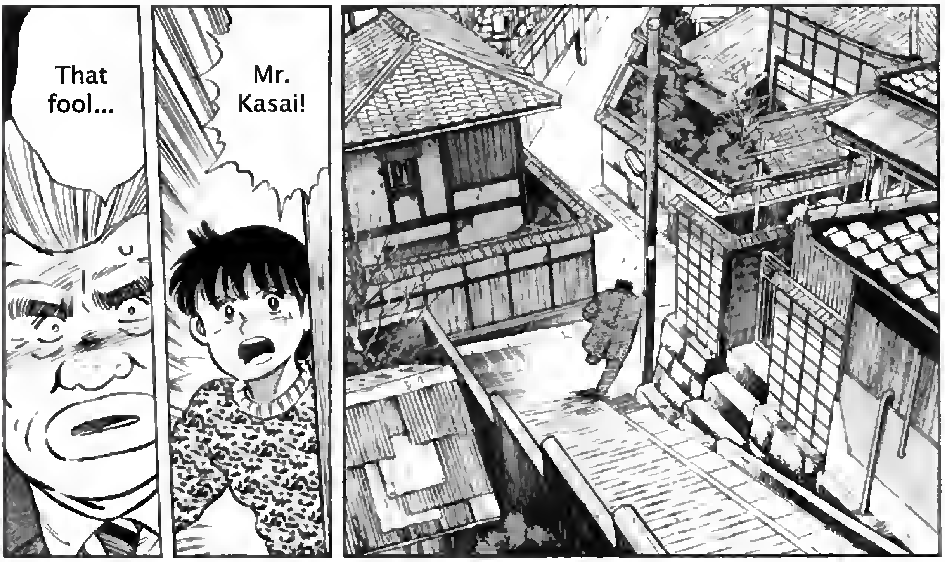
Yuri...

Oh well...
Hm hm...

SHOOF
Ha ha ha... You've got to be creative to write novels.
But to win the New Author's Award...
You're coming with me, to testify against Tagawa for murder.
What the hell are you thinkin' closing me up in here?
Heh... Is the love scene over already?
Get out.
I don't plan on going back empty-handed.
I ain't sayin' jack!
...
Call us a taxi, Yuri.
Eventually you'll have to talk.

I gotta take a dump.
Tell me you're not planning to watch.
...
KACHUK
FLUSHHHH
CRASH

Dammit.


That fool...
Mr. Kasai!

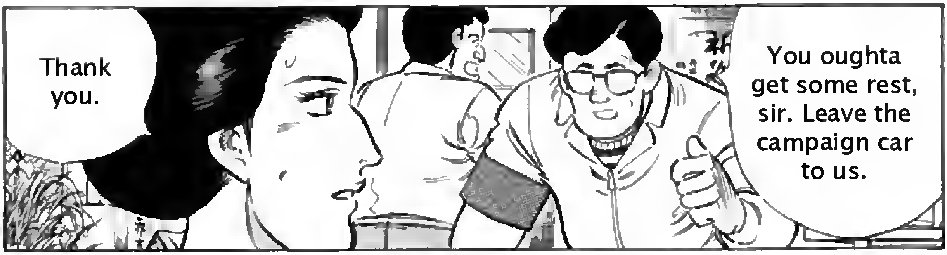
He's gonna die.

...

He's a real fighter!
All the polls show him right up there at the top!
They haven't been released yet, but everyone already knows.
Public opinion polls from NHK and Newspaper A are especially reliable.
So he's got this in the bag!

赤木総一郎
赤木総一郎
This election's almost over, so let's get those voters fired up!

It's fatigue. You're hardly sleeping at night these days.
Just got a little light headed.
Yeah.
Are you okay?


Thank you.
You oughta get some rest, sir. Leave the campaign car to us.

...
You really shouldn't overdo it.
I'm fine now. It was really nothing.

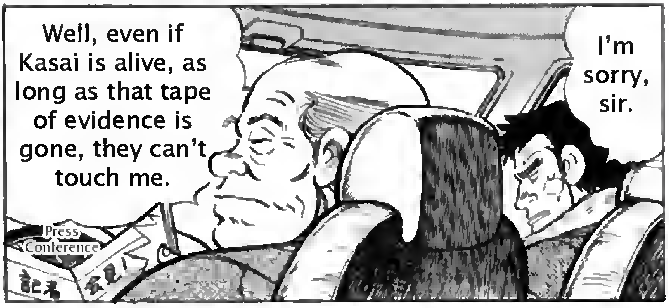
WOBBLE
Honey!
What's happe-ning?

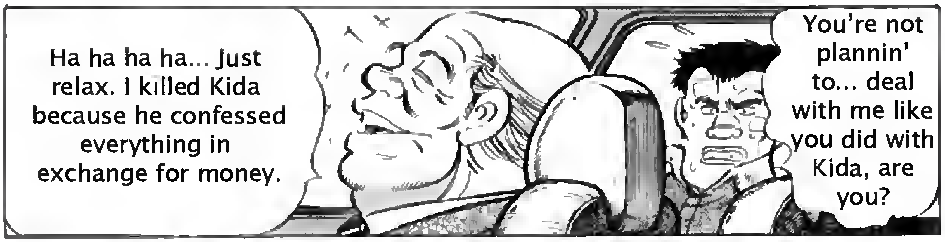
Close the door and keep those reporters out.
Hurry up!
Calm down.
Just stay calm, dammit.
Honey.
Sir!
Mr. Akagi, sir!
No, you're going to the hospital.
All right, I'll go. So stop with the commotion!
It's just a little dizzy spell, nothing to worry about.
You stay here, Kinuko... I'll take a taxi to the hospital...
Listen... I've got to win this election... We can't let the voters perceive any sign of weakness.
Mr. Akagi.
SLAM
Just... a little fatigue.
Huff
Huff
Huff
...not to say a word about my collapse.
Honey ...
Tell all the others...

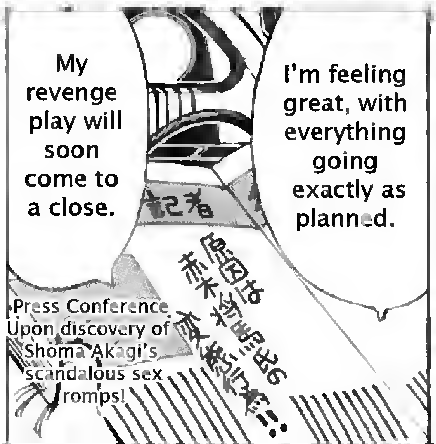
Emergency Press Conference!
Akagi GroupWife Ayako files for divorce
Upon discovery of Shoma Akagi's scandalous sex romps
緊急記者会見！
赤木グループ
綾子夫人
離婚の訴え
原因は
赤木将馬氏
変態行
Pray For Victory
Soichiro Akagi
祈必勝
This article was just released today!
Terrible news, sir.
Shoma Akagi's scandalous sex romps!
赤木将馬氏の変態行為!!
WARP
Honey!
Someone call an ambu-lance!

You've got some nerve showing up like this.
You imbecile! Can't you do anything right!?

The only ones left who know the truth are you and me.


Well, even if Kasai is alive, as long as that tape of evidence is gone, they can't touch me.
Press Conference
I'm sorry, sir.

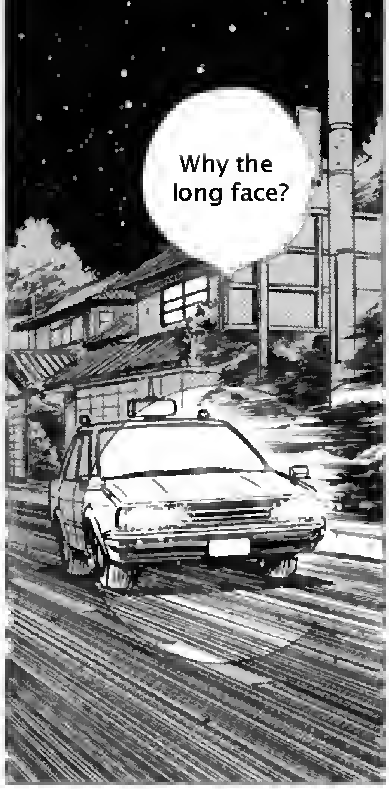

Ha ha ha ha... Just relax. I killed Kida because he confessed everything in exchange for money.
You're not plannin' to... deal with me like you did with Kida, are you?


My revenge play will soon come to a close.
I'm feeling great, with everything going exactly as planned.
Press Conference
Upon discovery of Shoma Akagi's scandalous sex romps!

But you're different! I can still use you as my right-hand man. Heh heh heh...

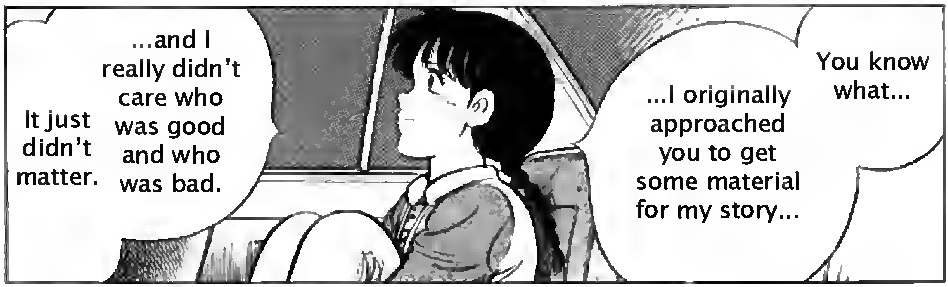
Take this money and have some fun overseas. You could use a nice vacation.
THUD
And so long.
Thank you very much, sir.
KACHUK
Get going. I want you out of sight until my plan is complete.
But it's so much ...
So long.
Right...
BANG

Yay! Then we can go back!
Since that thug got away, I don't know if I'll be of any use to Mr. Akagi.

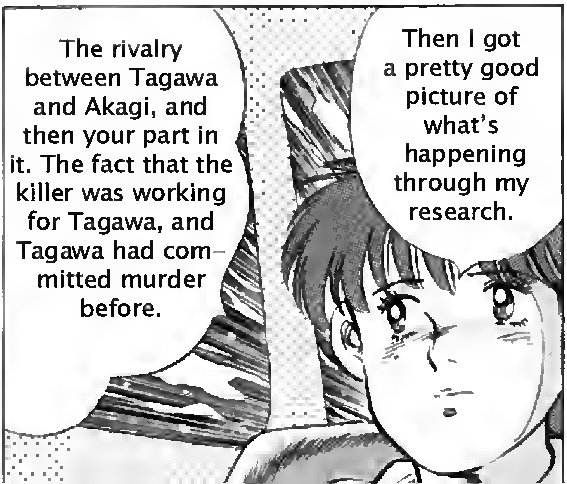

Why the long face?

Sorry.
...

...


It just didn't matter.
...and I really didn't care who was good and who was bad.
...I originally approached you to get some material for my story...
You know what...

The vision that you and Mr. Akagi share is all I wanted to see, for the theme of my novel.
But still, it all had nothing to do with my life.


The rivalry between Tagawa and Akagi, and then your part in it. The fact that the killer was working for Tagawa, and Tagawa had committed murder before.
Then I got a pretty good picture of what's happening through my research.

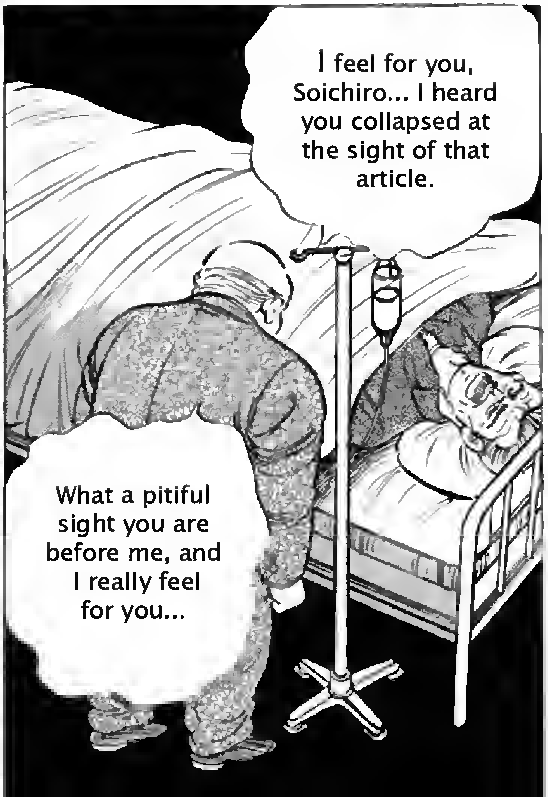
That's how it should be.
Right, right...
'Cause I thought of myself as the writer, you know, not the one on stage.
I planned to stick around to see how it ends, as a spectator.
...and before I knew it, I became a part of this thing.
Since I was thrown off that cliff with you and was nearly killed, I started living with you...
But you know, things have changed.
I, Yuri Toyota, college student, and lover of mystery novels fully involved in a real life mystery, hereby entrust this tape to you, Mr. Kasai.
FWIP
So I think I'm qualified to hand this to you, sir.
And the plot thickens...
Tagawa got his hands on the master copy, but I decided to make a copy for myself.
Is that the...!?

CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP
CLOP

KACHIK

KACHUK

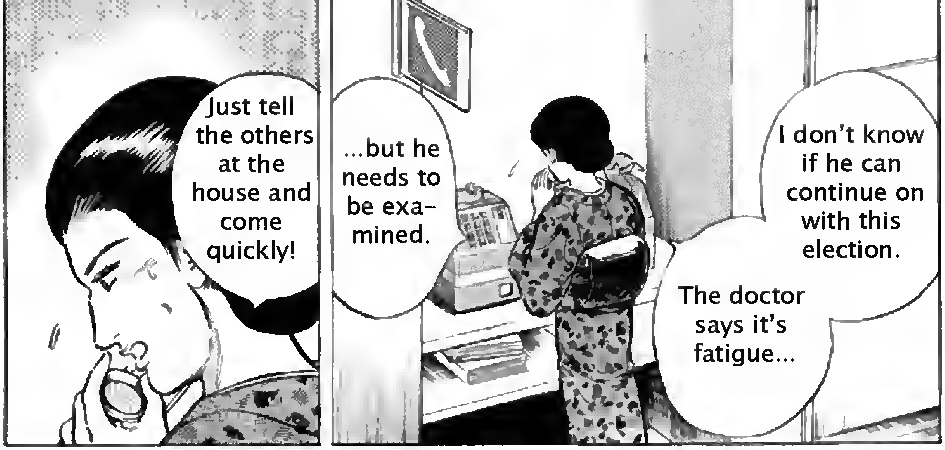
DRIP
DRIP
My day of revenge has finally come.
SNIFF
And I need you to wake up.

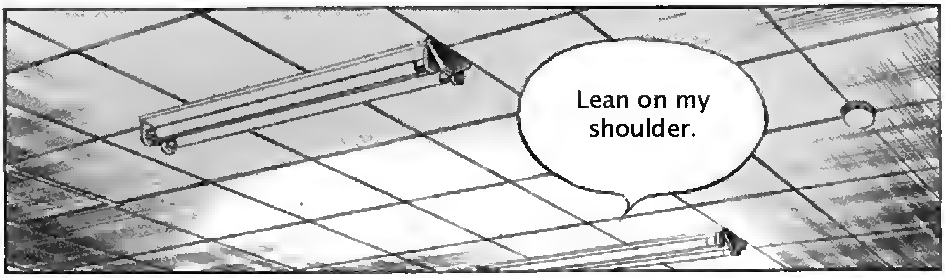

I feel for you, Soichiro... I heard you collapsed at the sight of that article.
What a pitiful sight you are before me, and I really feel for you...

F
VOL.19

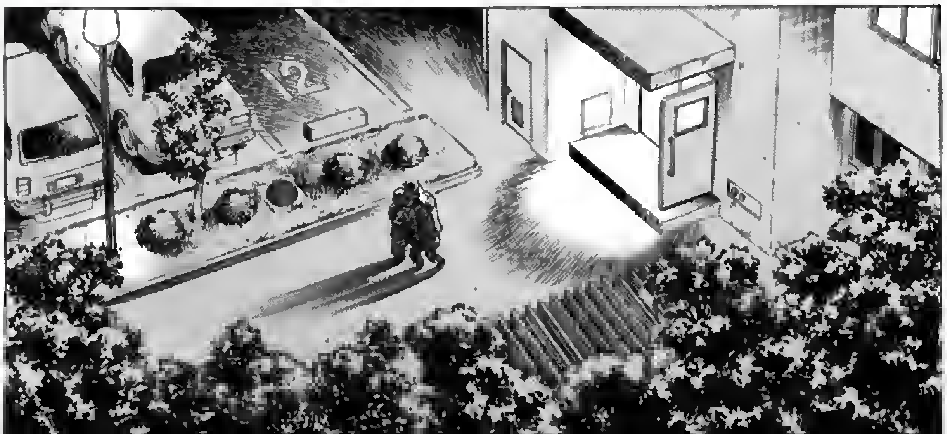
Chapter 4: Face to Face

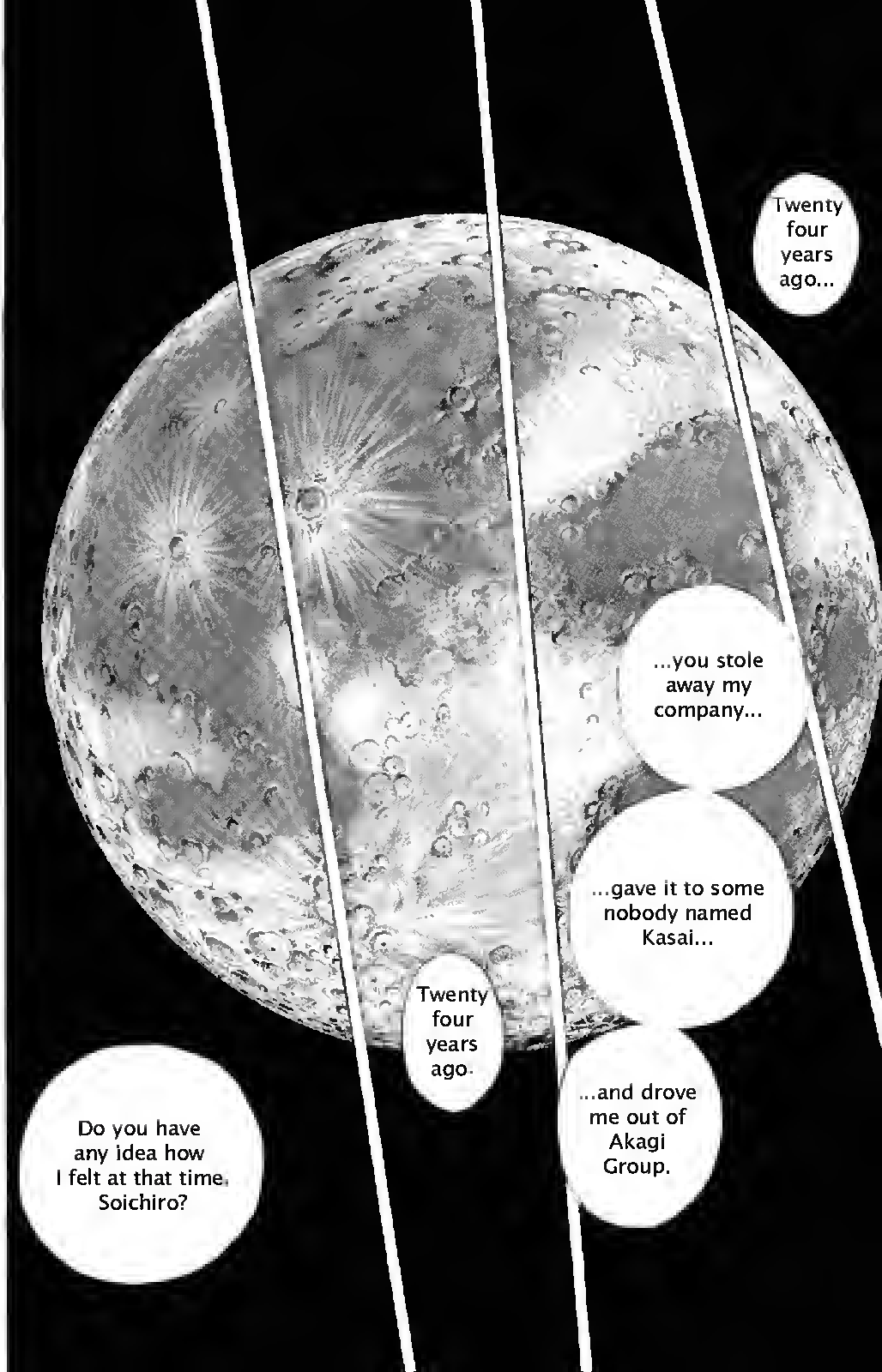
Wake up, Soichiro.
At last my time of revenge has come.
Uncle Tatsu ...
...!?
Please hurry, Yuma. Yes, your father is...
Uh-huh.
And I need to get back to the campaign office.
I don't have any idea where Shoma is.


Just tell the others at the house and come quickly!
...but he needs to be examined.
I don't know if he can continue on with this election.
The doctor says it's fatigue...


Lean on my shoulder.

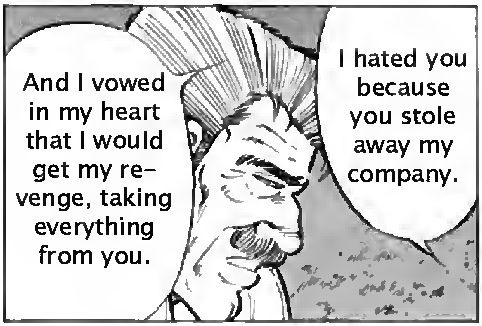
Somewhere private.
We need to talk.
Where to?




Twenty four years ago...
...you stole away my company...
...gave it to some nobody named Kasai...
...and drove me out of Akagi Group.
Twenty four years ago.
Do you have any idea how I felt at that time, Soichiro?

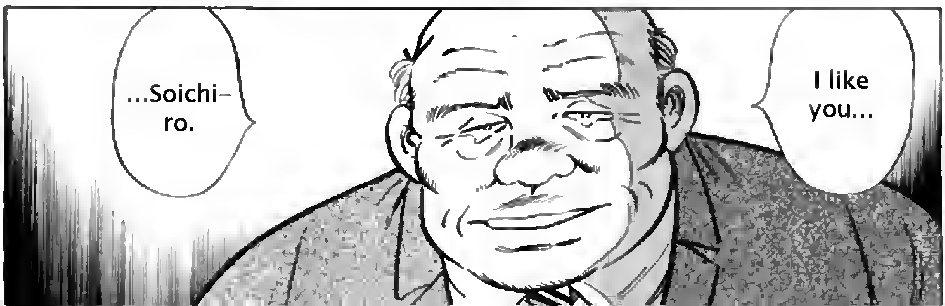
Of course you don't.
You were flying free as an up-and- coming entrepreneur.
How on earth could you understand a man like me, a small-time merchant peddling cheap goods one at a time to scrape out a living?
You couldn't have had any idea.
...

I liked you, Soichiro.
And I respected you.
Even though you're my nephew, I looked beyond that, at your appeal as a man...
...and I truly respected you for that. Even loved you.

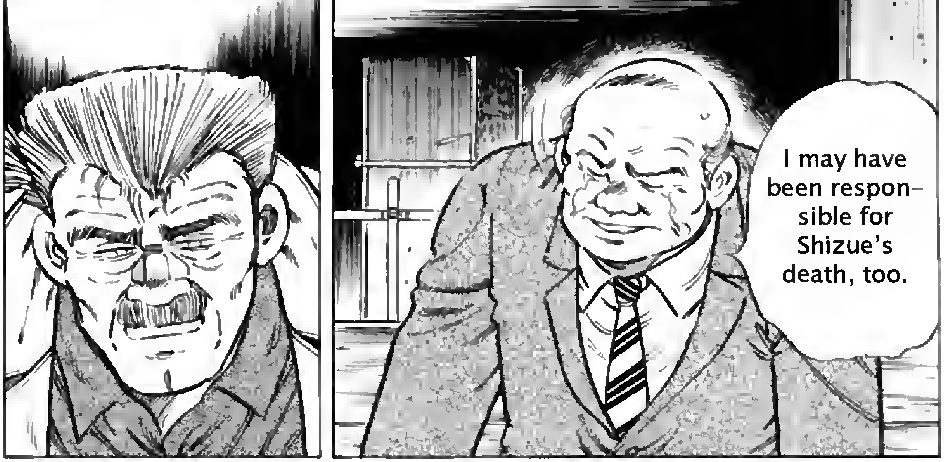

I hated you because you stole away my company.
And I vowed in my heart that I would get my revenge, taking everything from you.

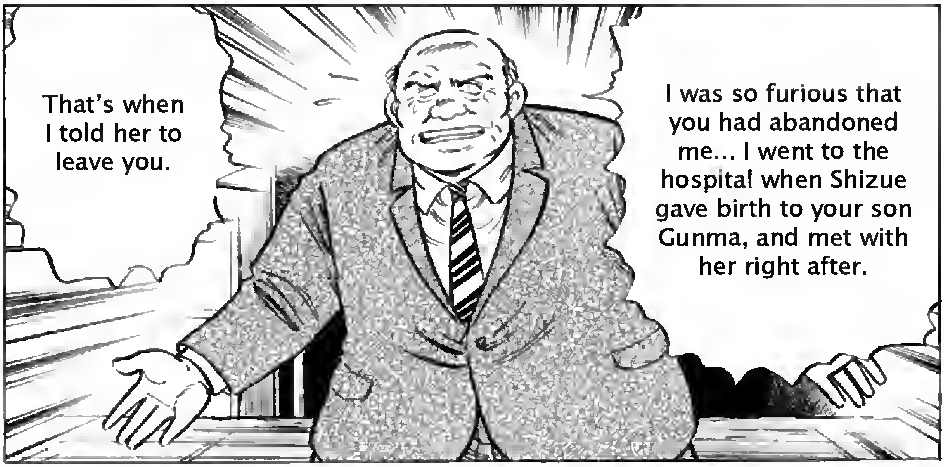
And you know, I still feel the same way.

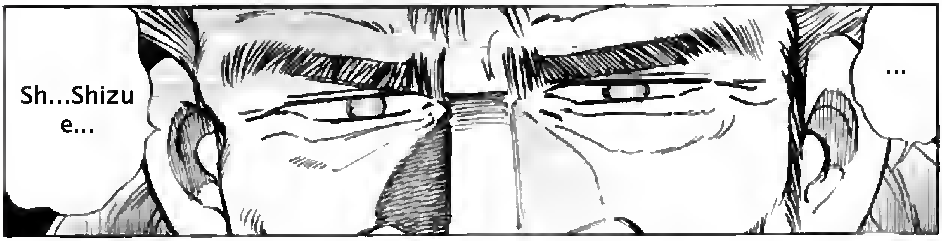
But now that I think about it...
...it was really all because I wanted to be a part of your life.
If it was impossible for us to be on good terms, then I would use revenge as a way to get involved with you.


I like you...
...Soichiro.

And I killed for you.
Yuki, Kida, and someone else just today.
Maybe four.
...I killed three people.
It's all your fault, because I wanted to be closer to you...
DRIP
DRIP


I may have been responsible for Shizue's death, too.


That's when I told her to leave you.
I was so furious that you had abandoned me... I went to the hospital when Shizue gave birth to your son Gunma, and met with her right after.


Sh...Shizue...
...

You son of a bitch.
...Uncle Tatsu...
So you met with her...

WOBBLE
ヴラ!
... Tatsu ...
Uncle ...
Come give me an ass-whip-ping.
You've seen my true colors now.
So come on, then.
...
So it would be unfair if I wasn't the second most important character in your life.
So come on, Soichiro.
While I'm the protagonist in my life, you're the second most important character.
So come on!
I've been waiting for this day... for this very moment!
I'll absorb your hatred, and get right back up.
Gimme your best shot, and I'll take it like a man.

!!
Shizue...
FWOOOOH

Shizue...
FWOOOOH

...
Shizue
...
WOBBLE

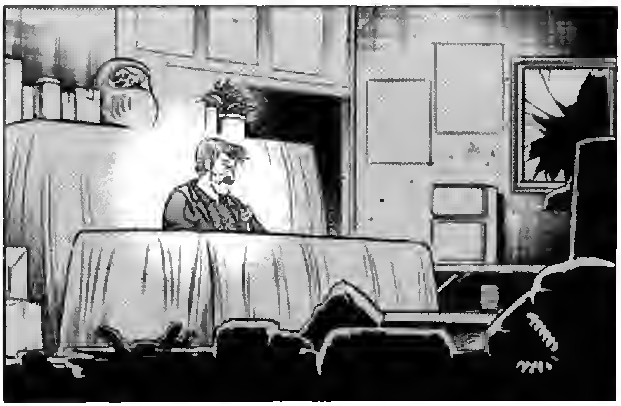
PLUNK

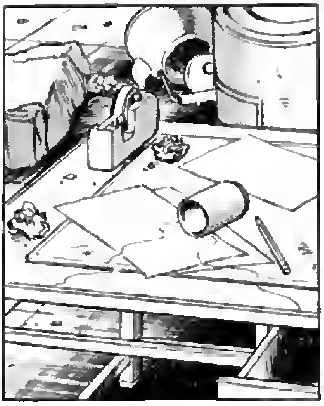
My husband is gone...
Someone please...
Where are you!?
Honey!

Independent
Soichiro Akagi
無所属 赤木総一郎
バカ
LOSER

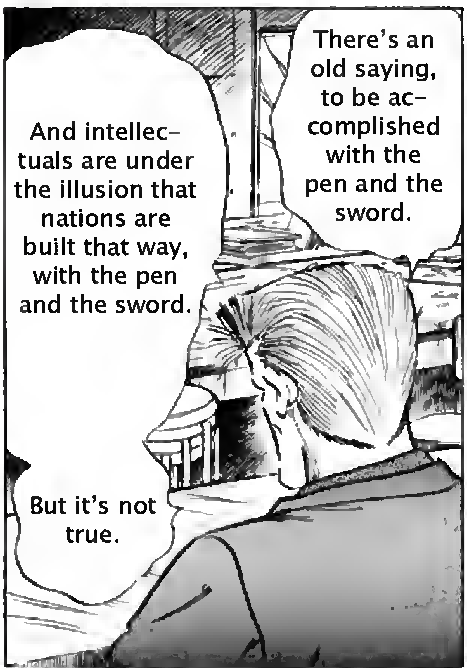
豊かな国
大いなる

Shame
on you!



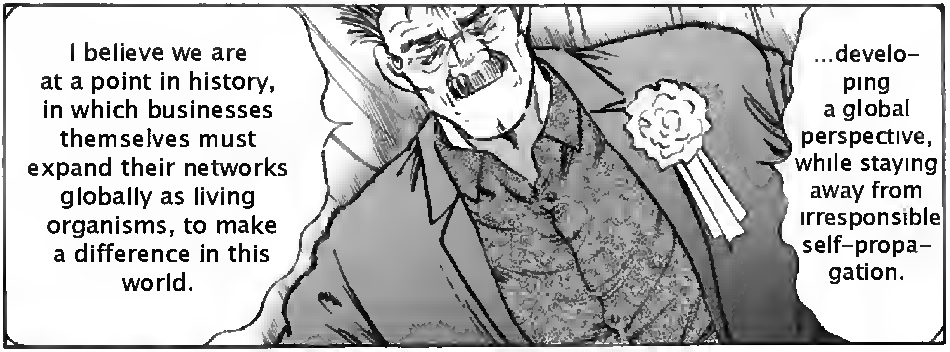


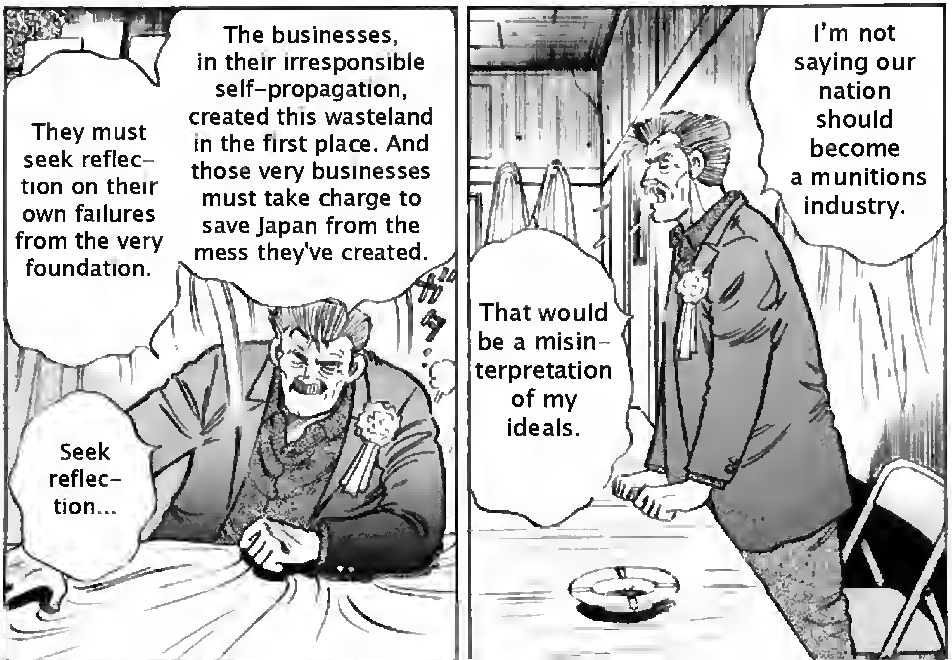
I'm sorry to bring you all here away from your busy schedules.
We're in the final stage of the election now, so I'd like to reaffirm my stance to all of you.


There's an old saying, to be accomplished with the pen and the sword.
And intellectuals are under the illusion that nations are built that way, with the pen and the sword.
But it's not true.

Some are saying that our campaign is simply to benefit the company.
And it's true that I decided to run because I'm a businessman.

Today businesses should cooperate with military and academia to come out of the shadows...
...to internationalize, expanding on a worldwide scale...
And this is what Japan has become, a business-based nation.
...the backbone of a nation, and the shaper of societies, is commercial enterprise.
The reality is that...


I believe we are at a point in history, in which businesses themselves must expand their networks globally as living organisms, to make a difference in this world.
...developing a global perspective, while staying away from irresponsible self-propagation.


They must seek reflection on their own failures from the very foundation.
The businesses, in their irresponsible self-propagation, created this wasteland in the first place. And those very businesses must take charge to save Japan from the mess they've created.
Seek reflection...
I'm not saying our nation should become a munitions industry.
That would be a misinterpretation of my ideals.

So the time has come...
...to take our first step...
...and instead of relying on someone else, businesses must truly return to fundamental morals...
...putting a stop to their dependence on the illusions of growth and prosperity...
...as organisms living on this planet.

...into a new era.
...as a truly new community...
Into a new era of clean, honest business!

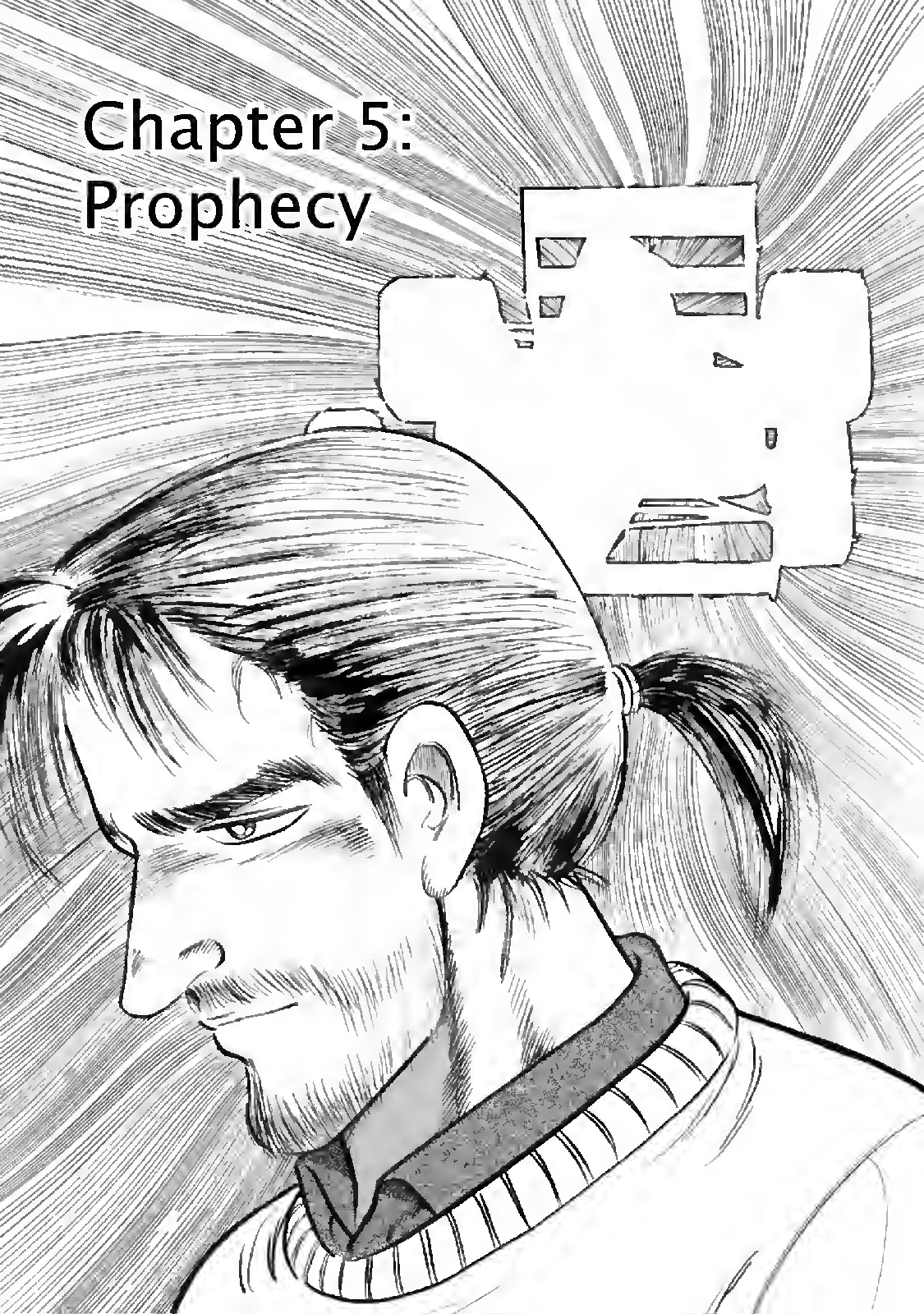
I'm a business man.
But more importantly, I'm a human being.
FWOOOOH
I love, I hate, I laugh, and I cry...
...a natural man, who lives for the sake of living.
And for a natural man to clip a single flower that is trying to bloom, is equivalent to his own death.

CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
I ask that you try to understand my thoughts on this.

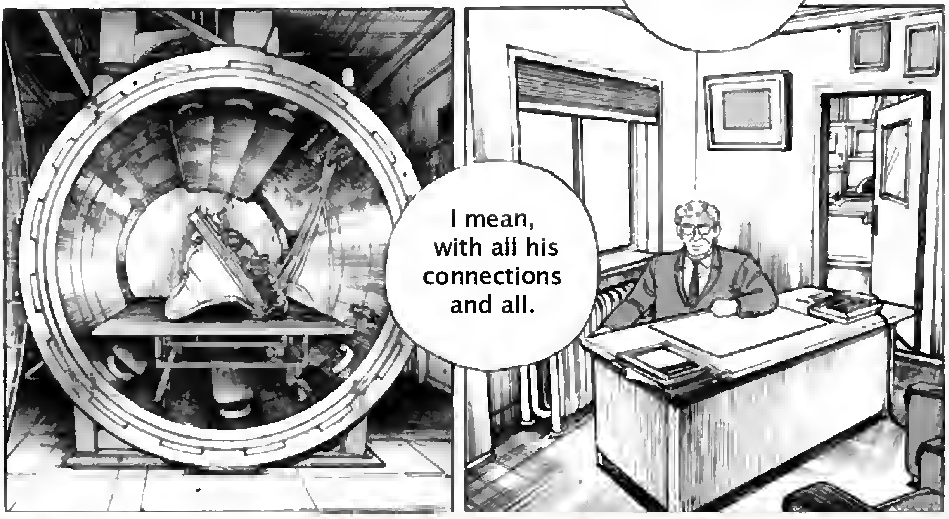
!!

CLAP
Kasai...
Ka...

Chapter 5: Prophecy



Orman's a pretty cool guy, huh?

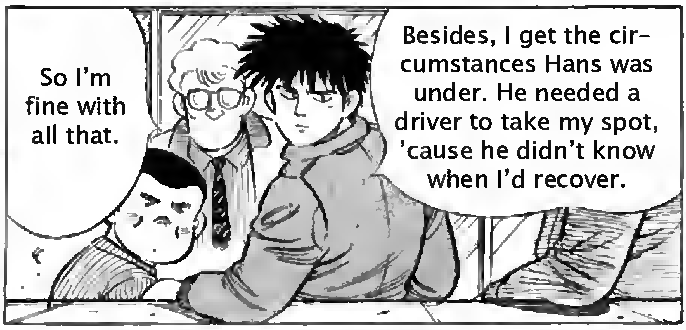

I mean, with all his connections and all.

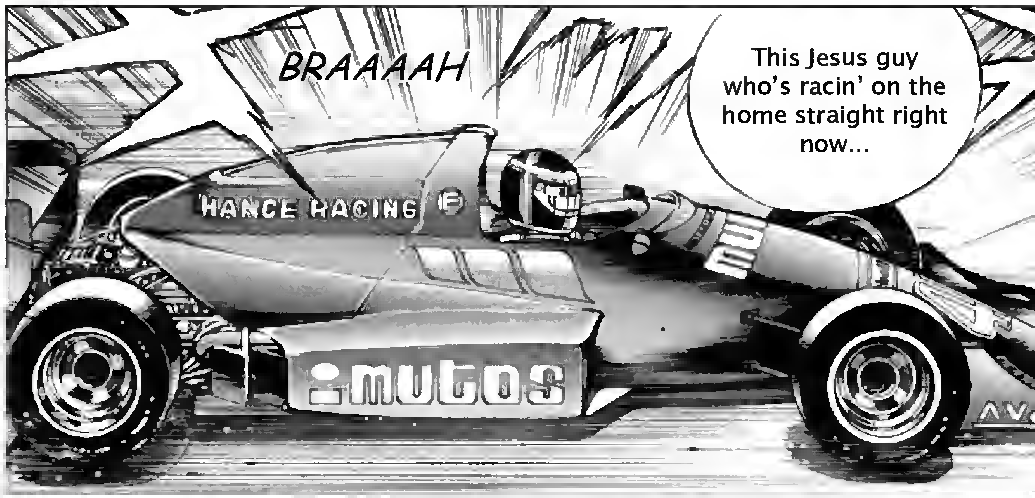
He's got my car taken care of.
Now the only problem is with our sponsors.
It's pretty much taken care of, but not 100%.

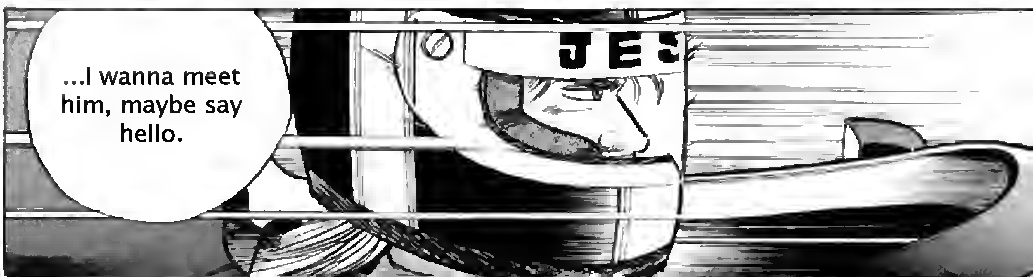
And this year I'm drivin' F3000 for Team Black Orman!
There ain't no problems. We've got great chemistry!
Problems?
Kuroi's name means "black" right? So Black Orman... Ha ha ha...
Yup!
Team Black Orman?
VROOOH
Not at all!
Do you have any ill feelings regarding Hans Racing, who you raced for till about mid-season last year?

My injury kept me out for the rest of the season...
...but up to that point I was racin' my ass off, and people won't forget that.
Hans gave me the chance I needed, and I'm grateful for that!

But still...


So I'm fine with all that.
Besides, I get the circumstances Hans was under. He needed a driver to take my spot, 'cause he didn't know when I'd recover.

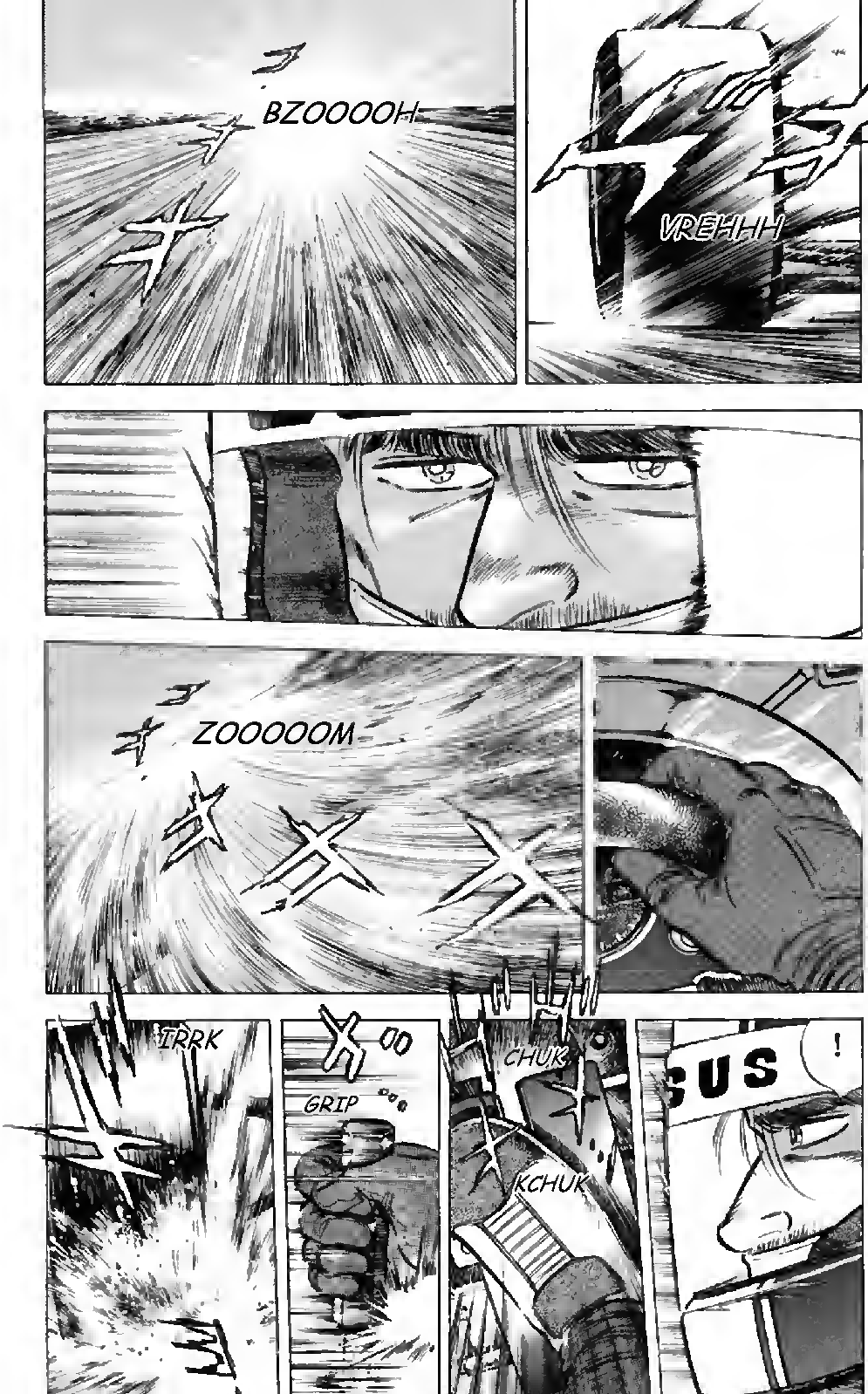

BRAAAAH
This Jesus guy who's racin' on the home straight right now...
HANCE RACING
mutos


...I wanna meet him, maybe say hello.

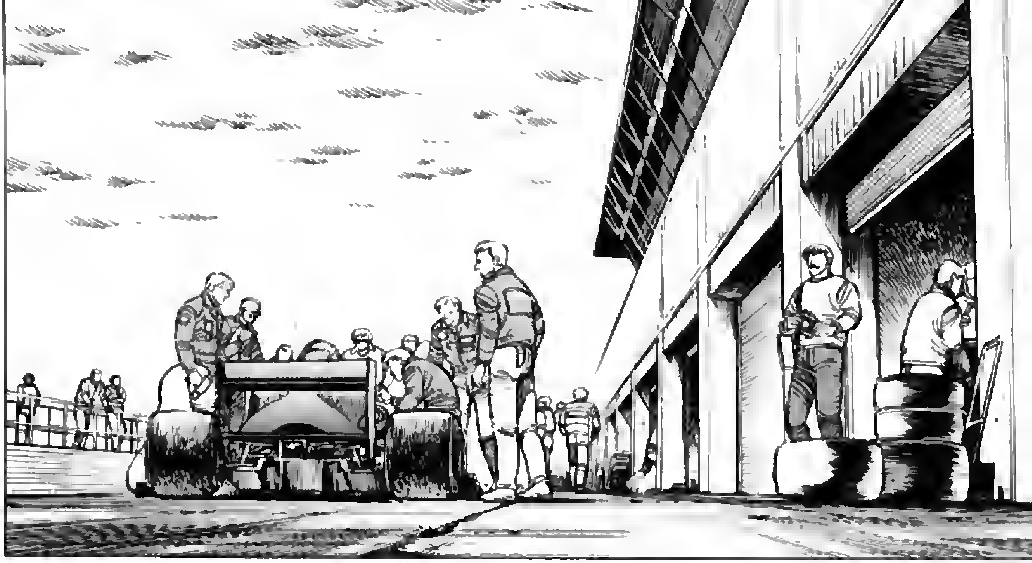
ZOOOOM
I mean, I'm a gifted driver, and for this guy who they're sayin' races like God himself to take my spot...

HA HA HA
You seem pretty confident.

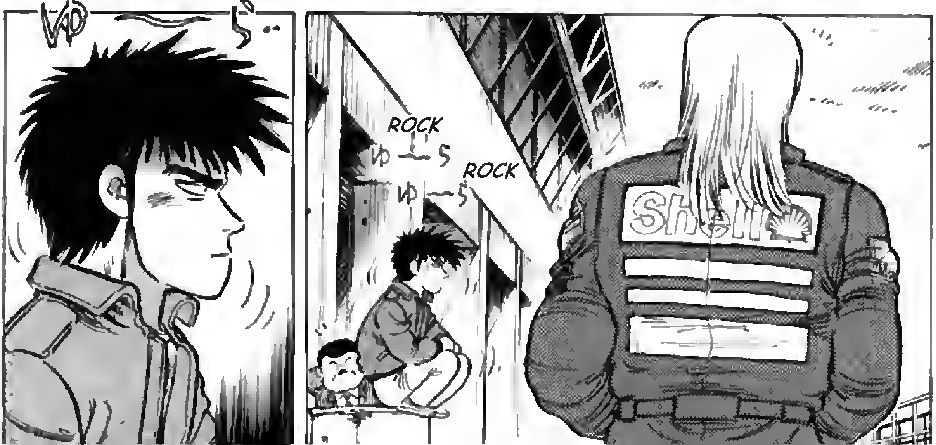
Maybe I'll offer up a prayer to him.
SHIN

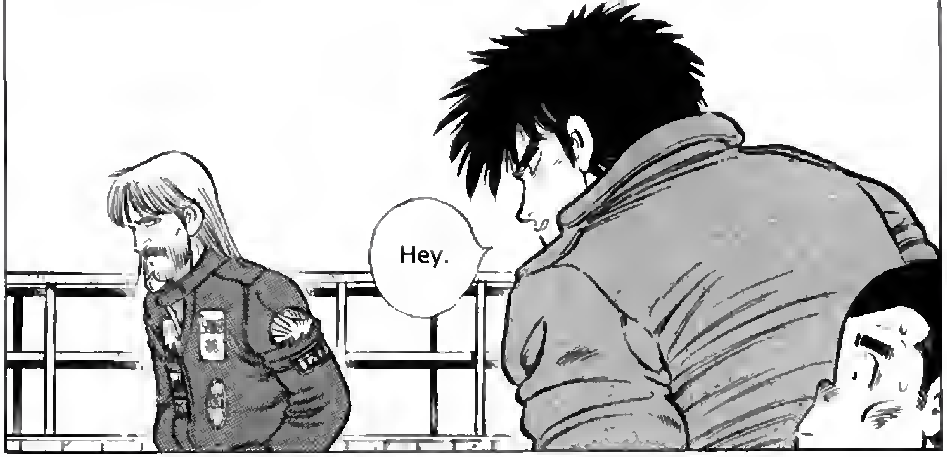

BZOOOOH
VREHHH
ZOOOOOM
TRRK
GRIP
CHUK
KCHUK
SUS
!

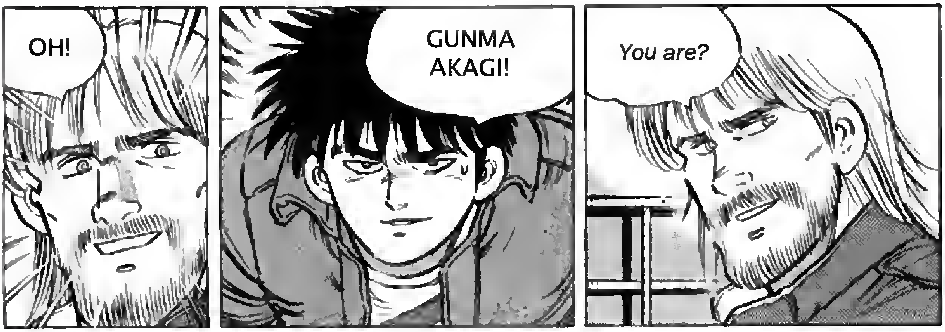
VRRRN
SCREECH
VREHHHH

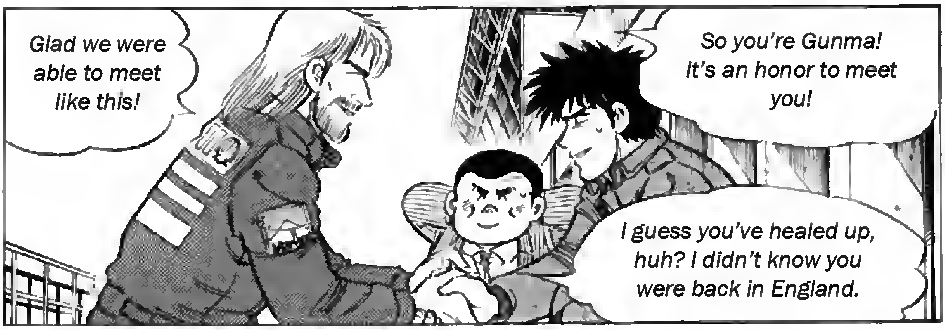


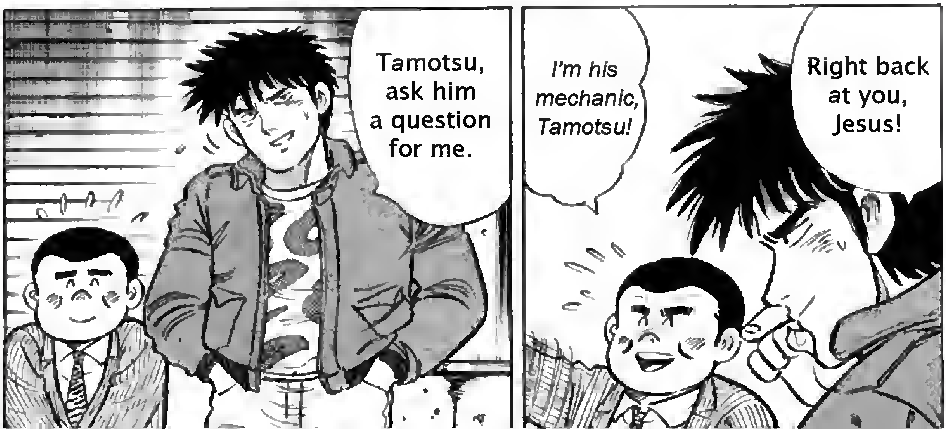
HAHAHA..


ROCK
ROCK
ROCK
Shell


Hey.


OH!
GUNMA AKAGI!
You are?


Glad we were able to meet like this!
So you're Gunma! It's an honor to meet you!
I guess you've healed up, huh? I didn't know you were back in England.

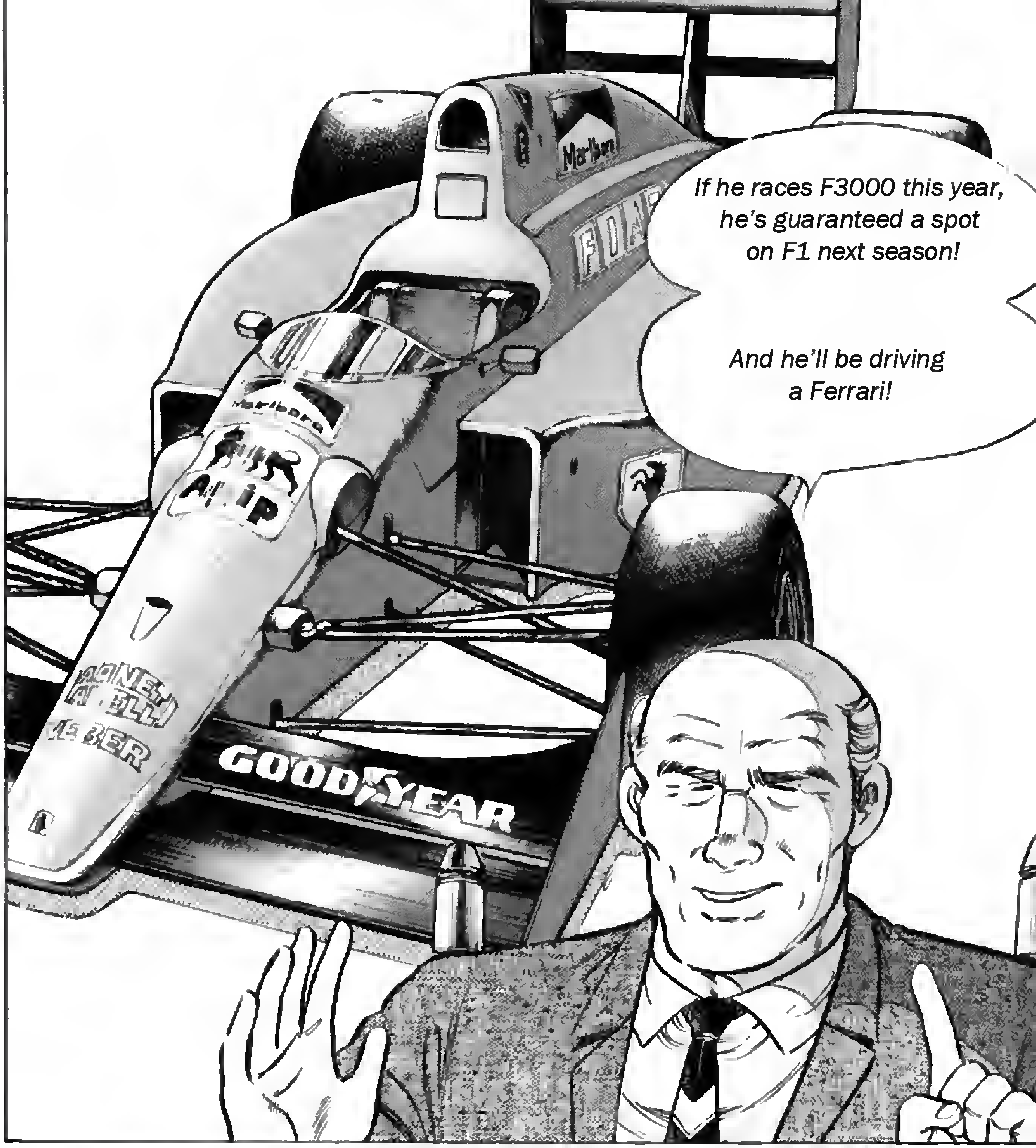

Tamotsu, ask him a question for me.
I'm his mechanic, Tamotsu!
Right back at you, Jesus!

Of course not, I'm just a man. My old man gave me that name as sort of a joke.
And it hasn't been easy. Ha ha ha...
People have been sayin' you're God.
Is that true?
The reason being...
Although I'm physically human, spiritually you might say I'm close to God.
But still...
If you're really God then...
...how about showin' me a little sign.
Then he's pretty much sayin' he is God.
...I feel a resonance with the sea, and wish for unity among all.
Basically, I see everything as one, and one as everything.
Marlboro
Shell
BOSS

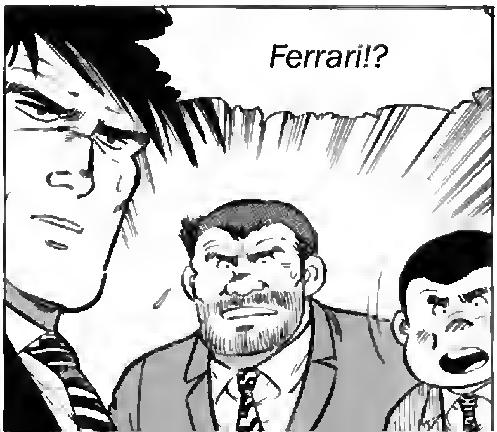
CLAK
Shouldn't be hard for God to tell.
TAP
PING
Heads or tails?
I'll flip this coin...
...
But the answer is both heads and tails.
Later.
...
"You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."
Marlboro
Gunma... As it is written in the Bible...
SWOOF

Hey.
Tellin' me not to put the Lord my God to the test... He just don't know the answer!
That pretentious son of a...
And they're on heads and tails!
There's two coins...!?

My apologies, Gunma. I wanted to get to Japan as soon as possible...
...and I have no intention of letting you go. I really wanted to make that clear today.
Hey, come on now Hans.
After waiting it out on Orman's team this year, I'd like you to come back to Hans Racing next season!
What do you mean he'll only be around for a year?
The nerve of this guy...
I know it sounds selfish of me, but Jesus is only on our team for a year. After that, we'll definitely have a slot open for you.
He's under a promise.
Jesus is only on the team for a season?
That'll work better for you too, won't it?


If he races F3000 this year, he's guaranteed a spot on F1 next season!
And he'll be driving a Ferrari!
Marlboro
GOODYEAR

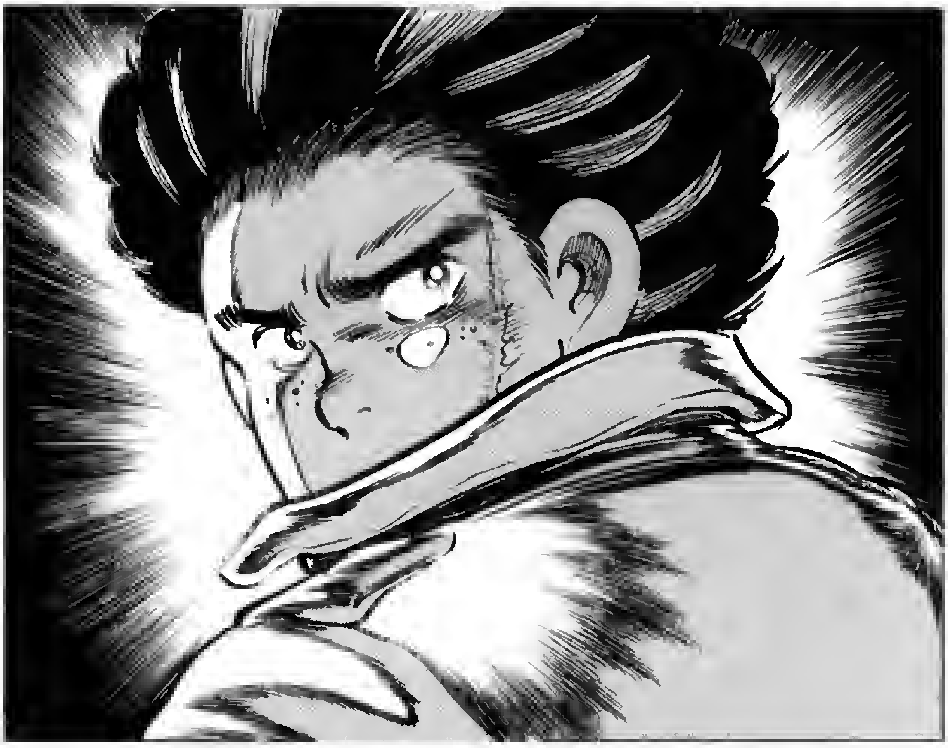
...


Ferrari!?

This city brings back memories.
...
HONK HONK
...this is where I ended up.
When I first came to England three years ago...
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
Hmph.
We gotta stick together, Gunma.
It's fine.
Tamotsu, you coulda stayed with Kuroi at Orman's place tonight.

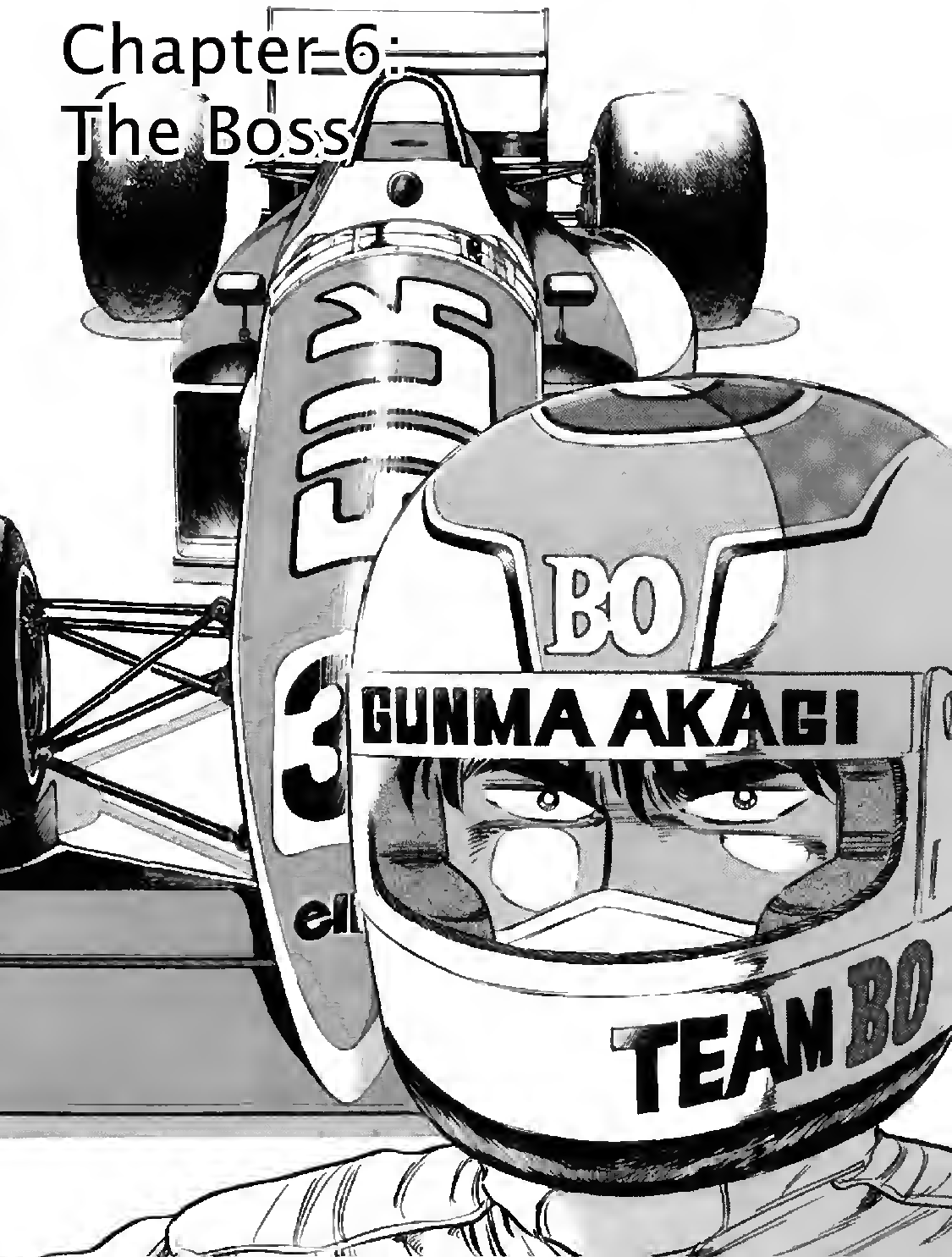
Well, I think he had a flawless run.
So what did you think of Jesus?
What about those two coins?
Of course he's human.
Not that! I mean whether or not he's God!
I don't know, that's why it's a trick!
Okay fine, but how'd he do it?
This ain't like you, Gunma!
Ha ha ha! That was just a magic trick.
You just have all the answers, don't you?
Listen to you...
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
...

Somethin' ain't right.
Huh?
What's wrong?
!?
Like somebody's in there.
...Peabow?
Could it be...
Peabow! Is it you!?
It's you, right!?
KACHUK

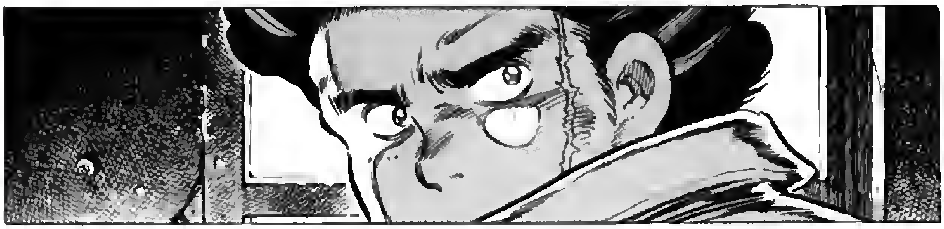


Who are you?
What the...

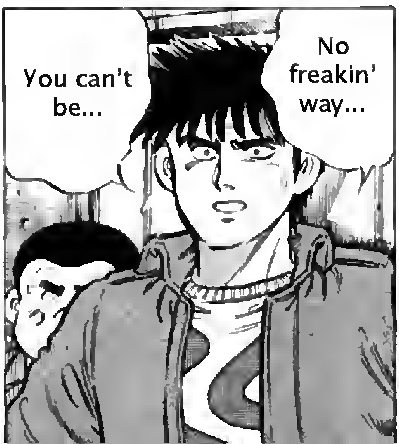
Chapter 6: The Boss



Who the hell are you!?

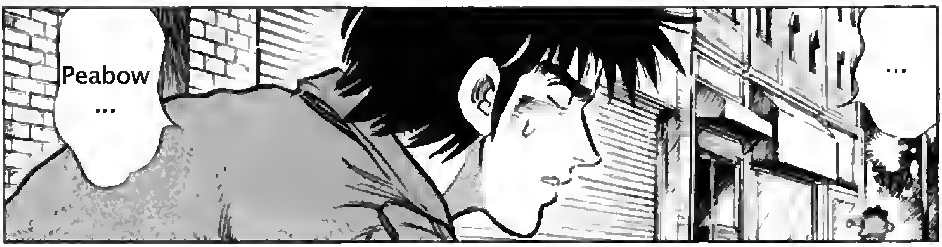


I mean, Peabow...
Are you really Peabow?
My eyes are foolin' me.


You can't be...
No freakin' way...

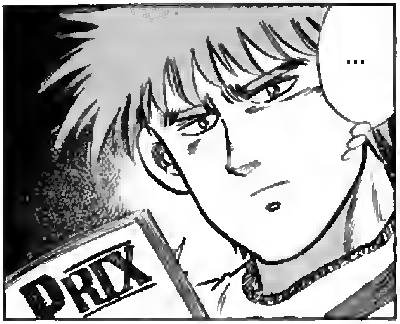
What the hell is that scar on your cheek, Peabow!?
The Peabow I know is a cute little guy with innocent eyes.
...didn't have his hair dyed, and all slicked back.
Plus ...
Hey!
SWOOSH
Gunma...
Ugh...
SLICE
You get back here, kid!

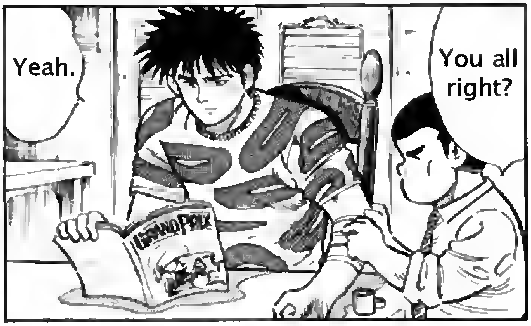
SWISH
Peabow!
TAK
TAK
TAK


Peabow
...
...

!?
Gunma, look at this.

KILL YOU!!


...
PRIX

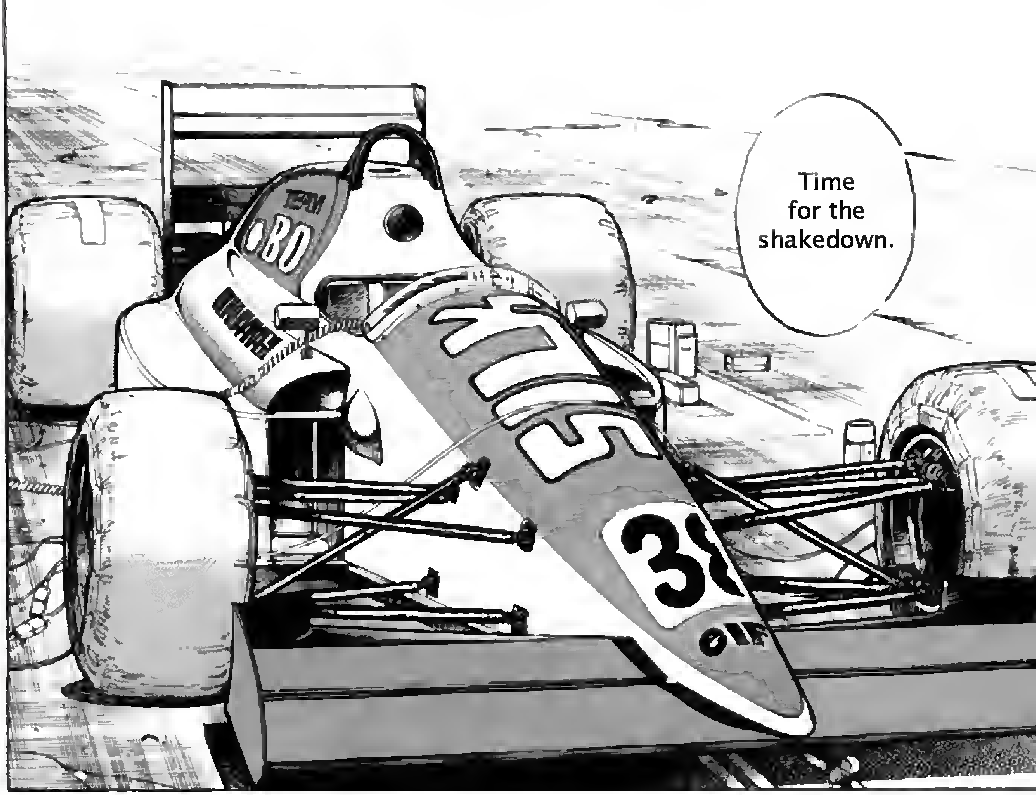

Yeah.
You all right?

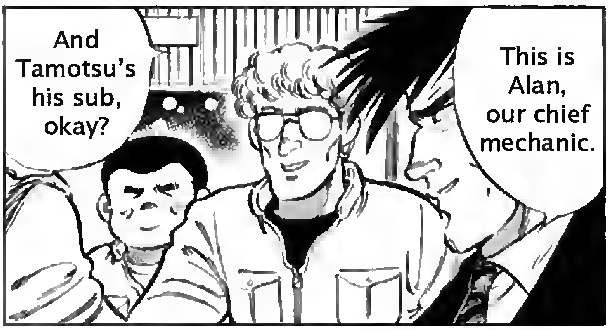
"KILL YOU" huh?

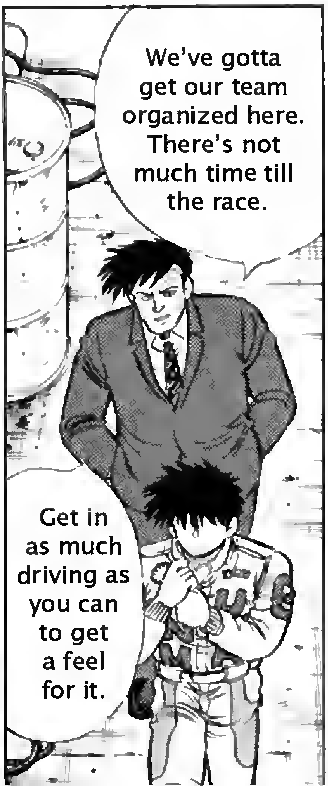
That little punk.
He's really changed.

It's true Sako went crazy because of me.
...he probably thinks you abandoned Sako.
GULULUL
It seems like Peabow's got you all wrong, Gunma.
From what he's gathe-red...
...that's all my fault.
...lost part of her memory, and closed herself off from others...
When she stabbed George...
Oh hell yeah.
You think Peabow really hates you?
...
KREEK
I ain't gonna run or hide.
You wanna kill me, Peabow? Go ahead...

I'll face you like a man!
You wanna gut me out Peabow, then have at it!
Think you got what it takes!?
リス
Pfft..
It's just like you and your daddy.
What the hell's so funny, Tamotsu!?
...!?
...and you're yer daddy.
Peabow is you...


Time for the shakedown.


And Tamotsu's his sub, okay?
This is Alan, our chief mechanic.

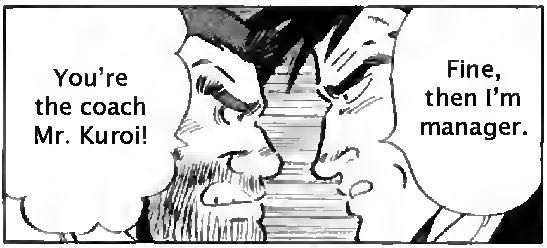

We've gotta get our team organized here. There's not much time till the race.
Get in as much driving as you can to get a feel for it.

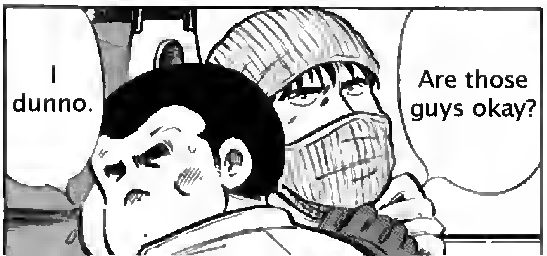
That guy's pretty impres-sive.

Think you'll get along with Orman?

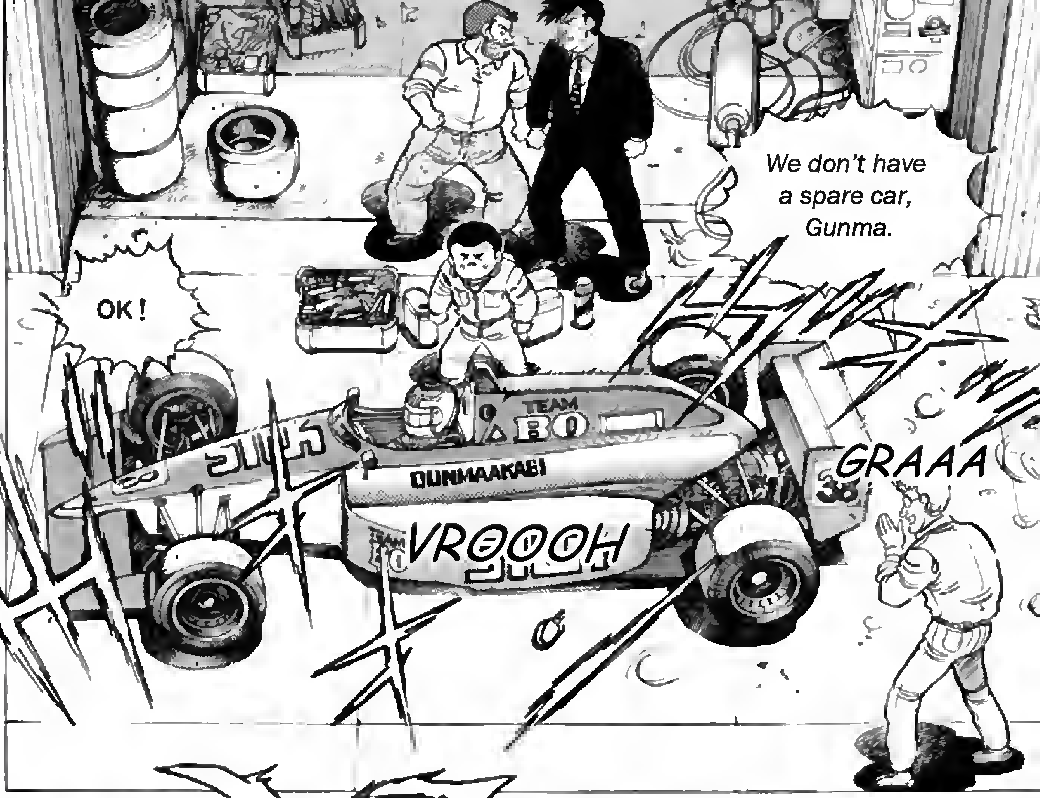
YAK
YAK
And we hadn't prepared for anything.
But now look at us!
He decided to make a team when he came to Japan to see you. In other words, it was a last minute decision.

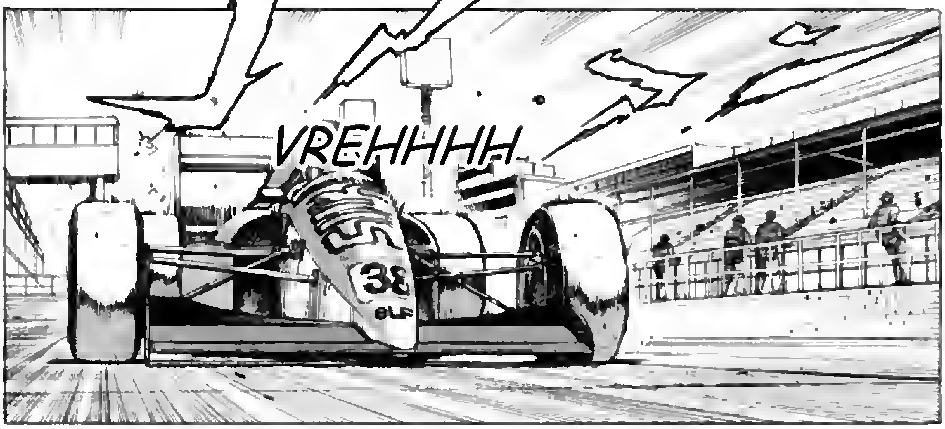
Sounds good. The team could use a lady's touch.
Let's get Junko!
Not to mention this new car!
He came back to England with us, and in a week's time, we managed to pull together something resembling a team.

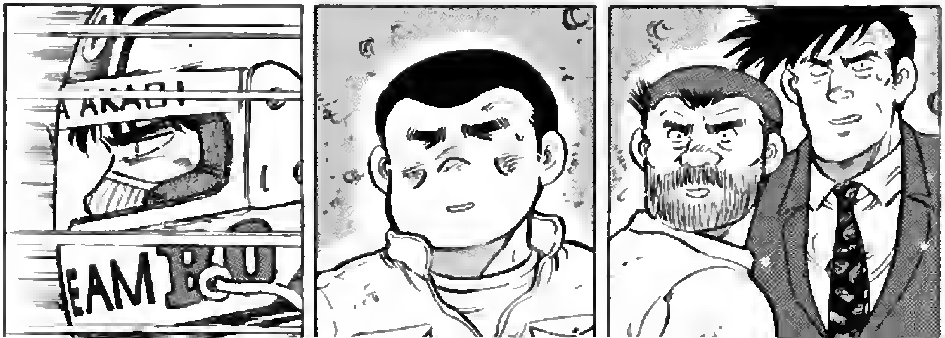

You're the coach Mr. Kuroi!
Fine, then I'm manager.

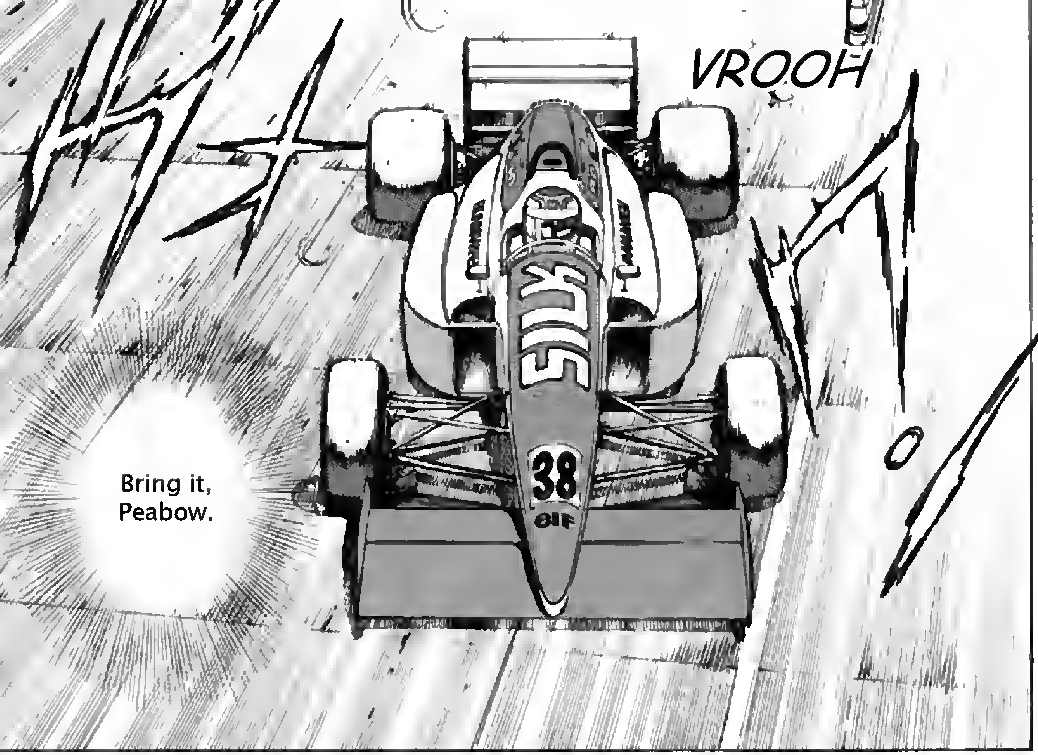

I dunno.
Are those guys okay?

Since when does a manager need a secretary?
Hey! She's my secretary, and a damn good one!
I'm not manager, I'm the leader!

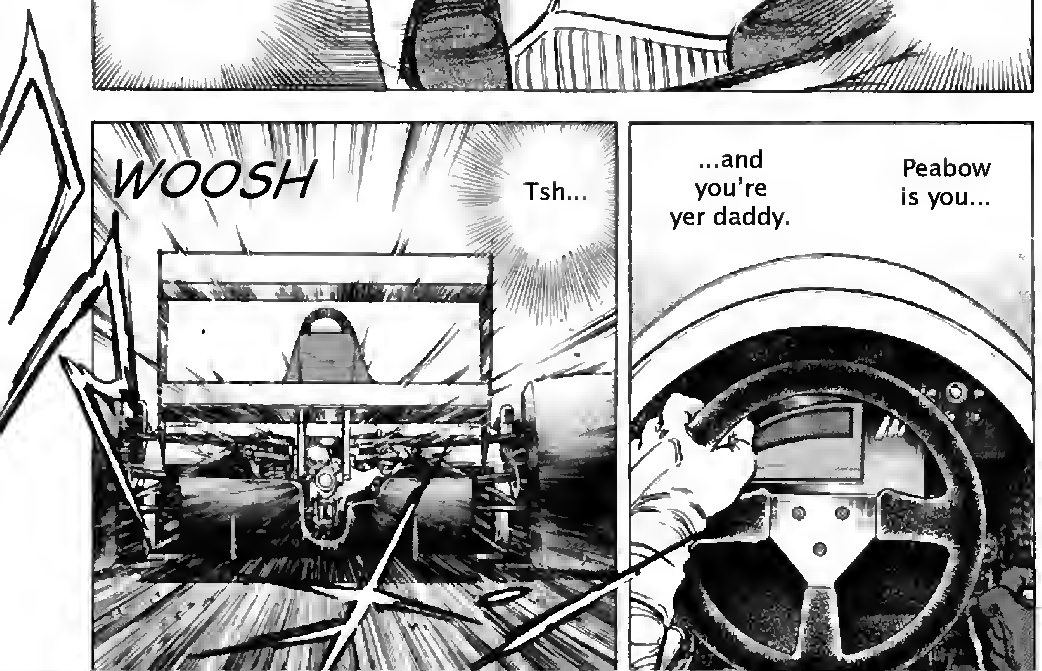

We don't have a spare car, Gunma.
OK!
TEAM
GUNMAAKABI
35
VROOOH
GRAAA


VREHHHH
38




VROOH
Bring it, Peabow.
38
elf

I'll take you on.
Any time, any place.


WOOSH
Tsh...
...and you're yer daddy.
Peabow is you...

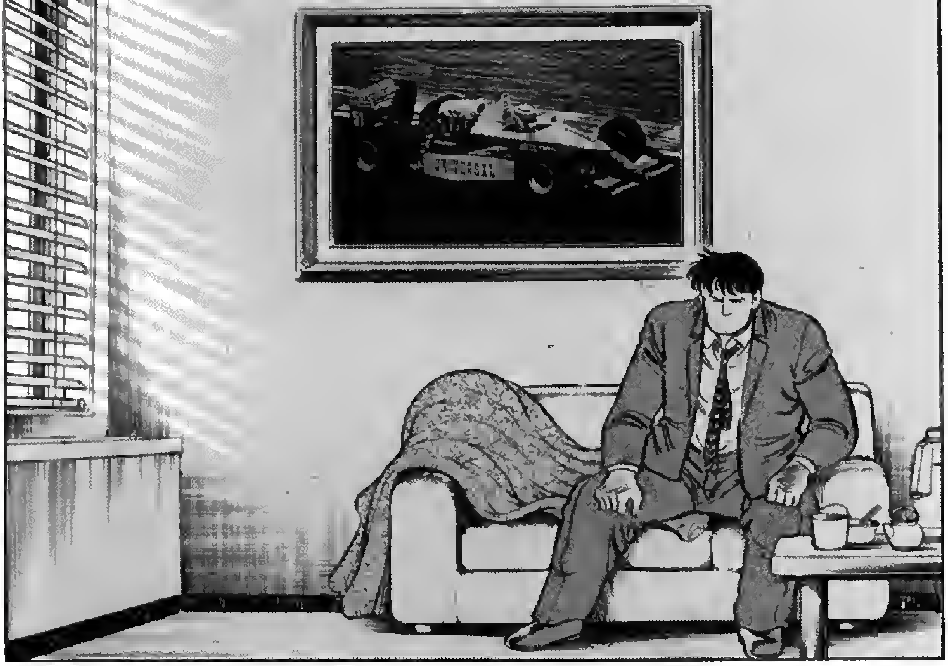
...so you go on ahead with the rest of the team.
Something came up...
I saw the maga-zine.
No prob-lem.
I'll get there soon after you.
You won't be affected.
I mean with the company all screwed up, what'll happen to me?
Are we still gonna race?
I know that.
I hope you make good on your promise.
Fine with me. But this year we're entering all the F3000 races in Europe, right?

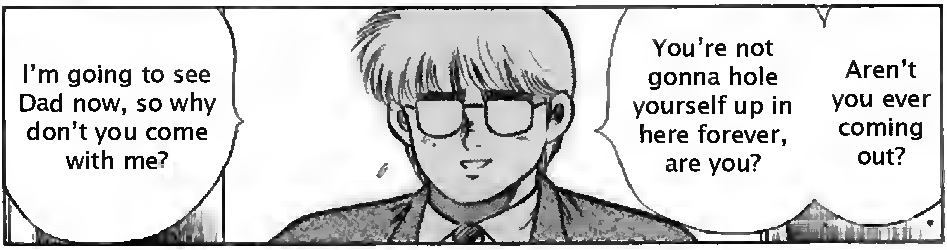
...but sometimes living on the wild side can affect your racing.
I hate to meddle in your private life...
Yeah?
...I heard something the other day.
Anyway, Otoya...
Hey!
Keep goin'.
Models, actresses, college students...
Heh heh heh... It's true I got women up the yin yang.
Are you talkin' about my women?
All that matters is that I'm fast, right?
So what's the big deal?
It's to become a better racer.
Get this, Yuma. I ain't livin' this lifestyle for the fun of it.
?

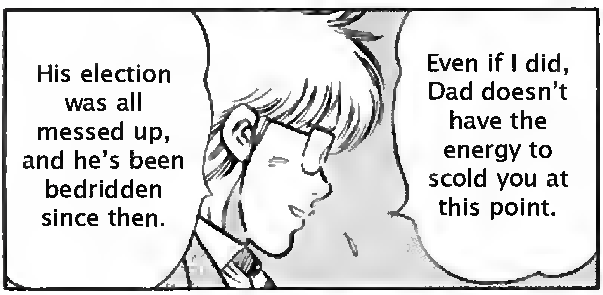
But when a half-injured Gunma beat me the other day at Suzuka...
I've got the skill, and I've got the luck.
I mean, really kicked my ass. How did that happen?
You can understand that, can't you?
Racin' is my purpose in life, and winning is all that matters.
But that wasn't even a win or lose situation.
He was out there as part of his rehab, and he still beat me!
But Suzuka's got me pissed!
It was my first race in Europe, and it taught me how big the world is.
He beat me in Jerez too, except that's no biggie.
What do you mean?
And found the difference between me and him.
I looked into his record after that.
I ain't got the words to describe it, but let's call it "internal pressure" for now.
But he got in front of me, and won by a damn mile!
Why is that!?

I'm a man of peace, not even able to leave the West Japan Circuit at one time...
And I'm embar-rassed because of it.
...'cause of my sick grandma.
It shows up in our difference in speed.
Me and him got a different kinda pressure inside us, a different level of tension.
Or maybe "internal power" is better.
It's to amp up my insanity.
You still don't get it?
...with your current lifestyle?
What does that have to do...
A true hero's gotta live on the edge like that to make it anywhere.
If I get an insane amount of pressurebottled up inside me, I can explode in the final seconds.
Blech...

I can relate to that.
And now he's trying to stretch those limits.
I guess he's trying to recognize his limitations in his own way.
Sigh ...
...while Otoya's consciously making an effort, Gunma's not.
But still...
'Cause I'm really no dif-ferent.
I wonder if Gunma's ever felt any limitations.
So I think they are different.
METAMORPHOSE
KACHUK
I'm coming in, Shoma.
KNOCK
KNOCK

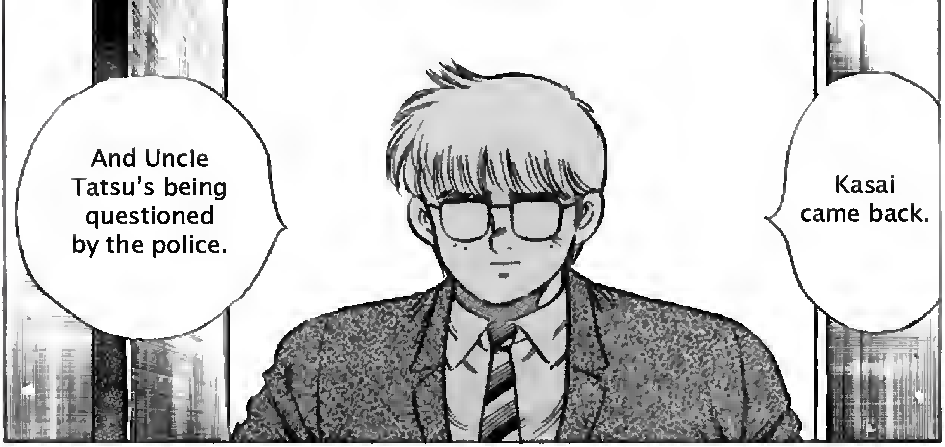


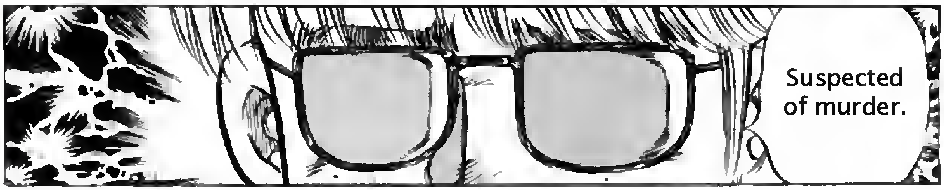

I'm going to see Dad now, so why don't you come with me?
You're not gonna hole yourself up in here forever, are you?
Aren't you ever coming out?


His election was all messed up, and he's been bedridden since then.
Even if I did, Dad doesn't have the energy to scold you at this point.

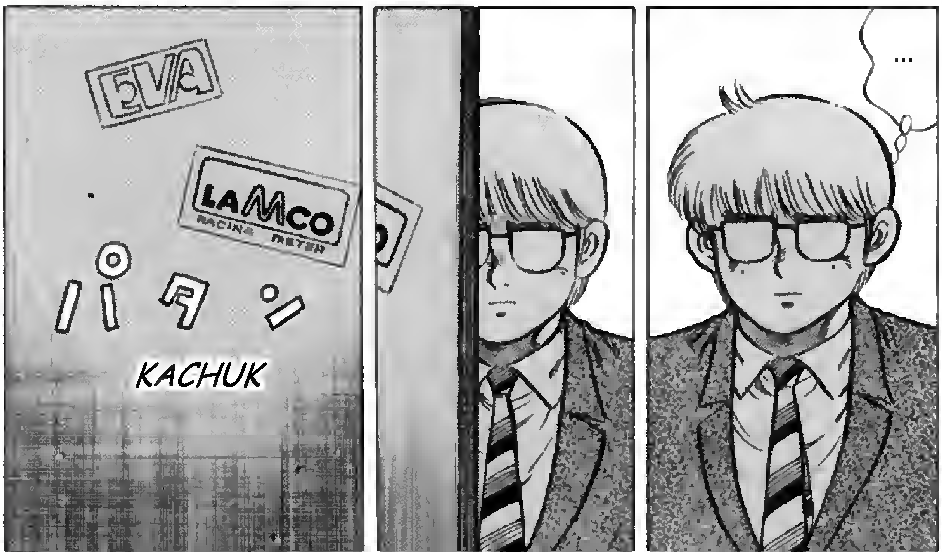
You didn't tell Dad where I am, did you!?
I didn't tell anybody.

She planned to betray me from day one!
Ayako, that little bitch...


And Uncle Tatsu's being questioned by the police.
Kasai came back.


Suspected of murder.

...that Dad's been running for decades.
I was used, Yuma! I'm the victim here!
All I wanted to do was look after the company...
I didn't do anything wrong!


EVA
LAMCO
KACHUK
...

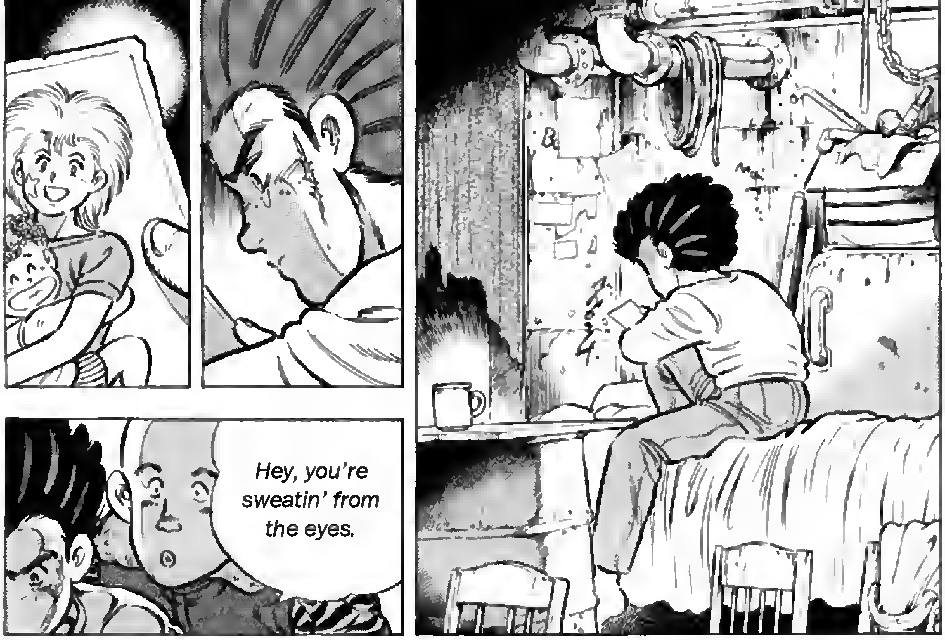
Chapter 7:
Poison

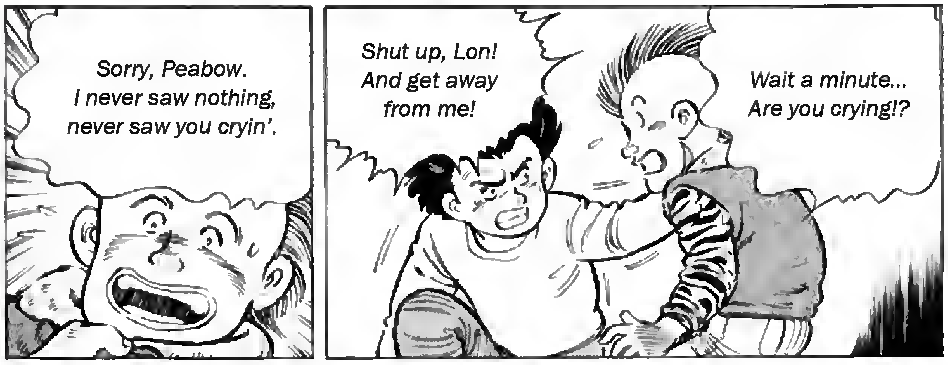
TEX

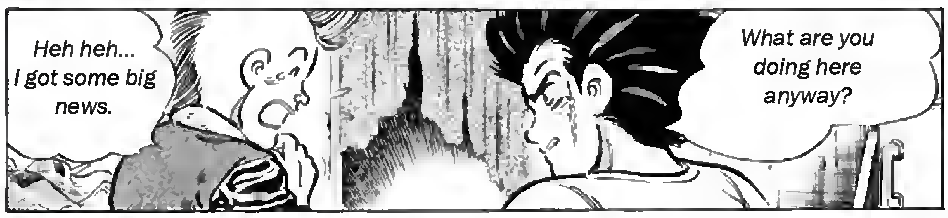
KACHUK

TAK

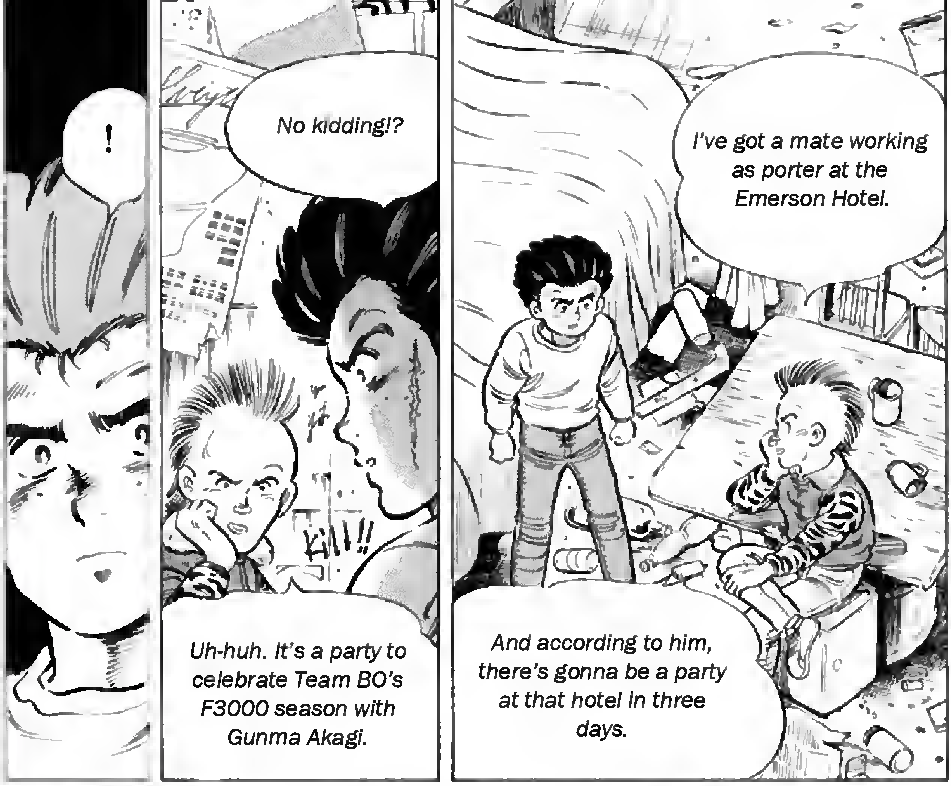
Where are you, mate? It's Lon.
Peabow.

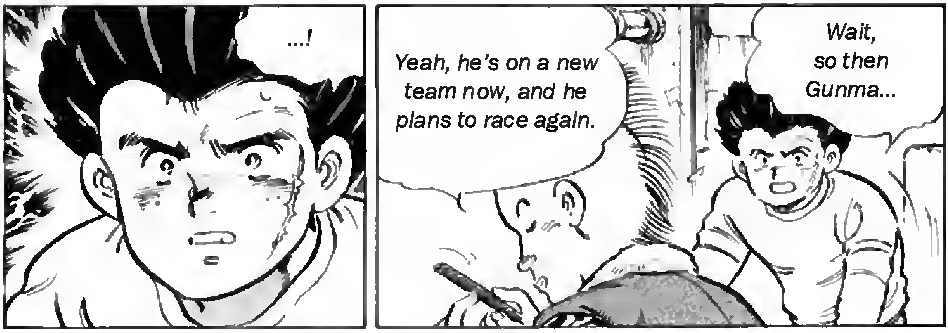

Hey, you're sweatin' from the eyes.


Sorry, Peabow. I never saw nothing, never saw you cryin'.
Shut up, Lon! And get away from me!
Wait a minute... Are you crying!?


Heh heh... I got some big news.
What are you doing here anyway?

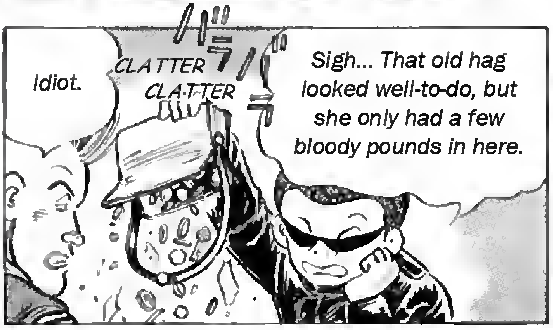
What!?
It's about that Gunma Akagi you hate so much!


!
No kidding!?
Uh-huh. It's a party to celebrate Team BO's F3000 season with Gunma Akagi.
I've got a mate working as porter at the Emerson Hotel.
And according to him, there's gonna be a party at that hotel in three days.


...!
Yeah, he's on a new team now, and he plans to race again.
Wait, so then Gunma...

He screws up me and Sako's lives,so he can live footloose and fancy free in his little race car.
That son of a bitch.
So that's why he came back to England.

Wot you need, mate?
Don!
DON
I'll make him pay!

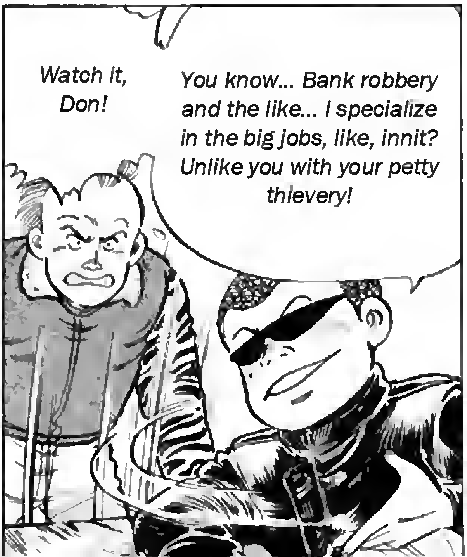

Idiot.
CLATTER CLATTER
Sigh... That old hag looked well-to-do, but she only had a few bloody pounds in here.

Nobody called your name, you dunce.
Peabow just hit the wall.
Oh.

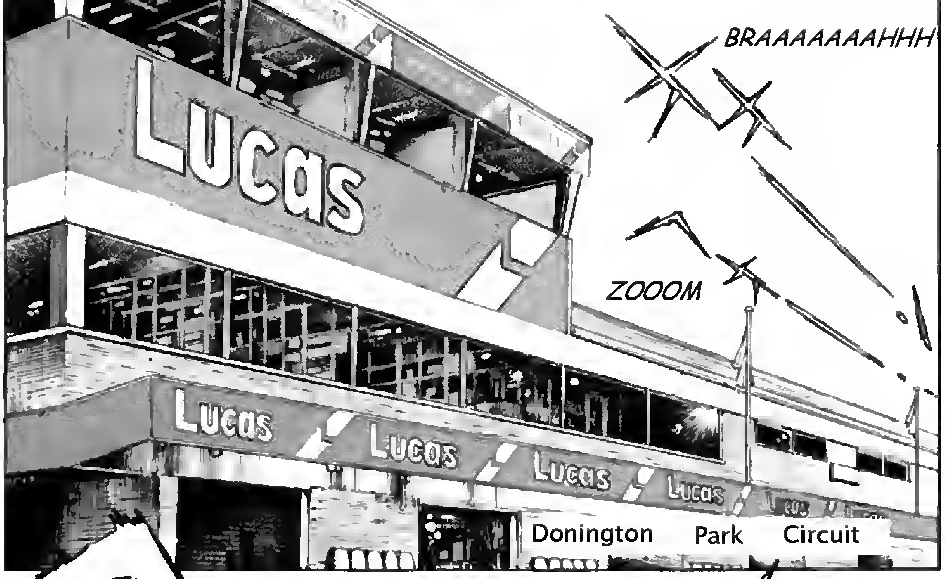
Then what is your specialty?
Watch it! Purse snatching isn't my specialty!

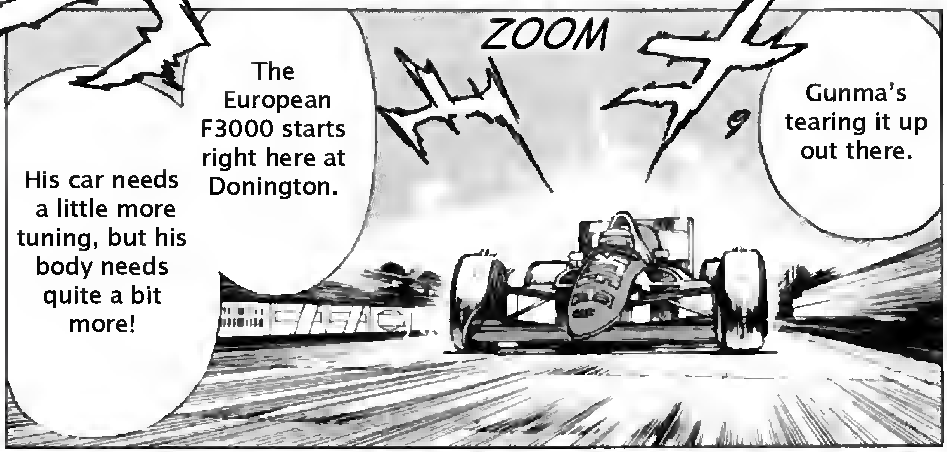
Peabow.
But this wanker...

Lon, Don! Both of you shut up!
Ow ow ow!


Watch it, Don!
You know... Bank robbery and the like... I specialize in the big jobs, like, innit? Unlike you with your petty thievery!

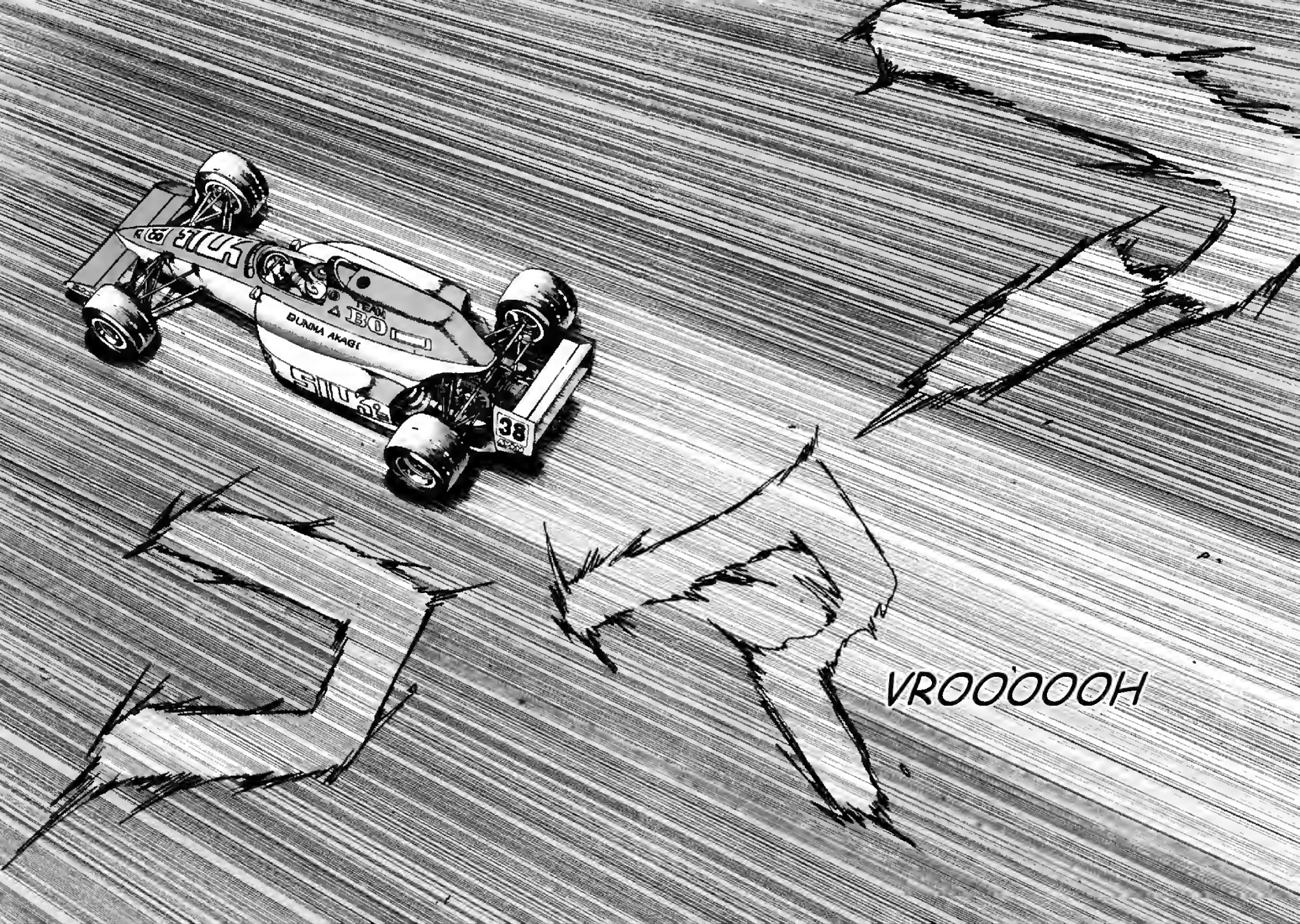
P...Peabow.
That's exactly what I've been waiting for, Peabow! What is it, a nice bank robbery, or maybe...
If it's the big jobs you're good at, then I've got something for you.
But if you don't have the guts, walk out that door right now, and I never want to see you again! That goes for the both of you!
A killing.
...killing?
A...
But...
Peabow...
I swear I'll kill him!
I'm gonna kill him. The one who reduced Sako's and my life to rubbish, Gunma Akagi!


BRAAAAAAAHHH
Lucas
ZOOOM
Lucas Lucas Lucas Lucas
Donington Park Circuit


ZOOM
The European F3000 starts right here at Donington.
His car needs a little more tuning, but his body needs quite a bit more!
Gunma's tearing it up out there.

Right.
Just let him race like the wind. He's been out of commission for six months.

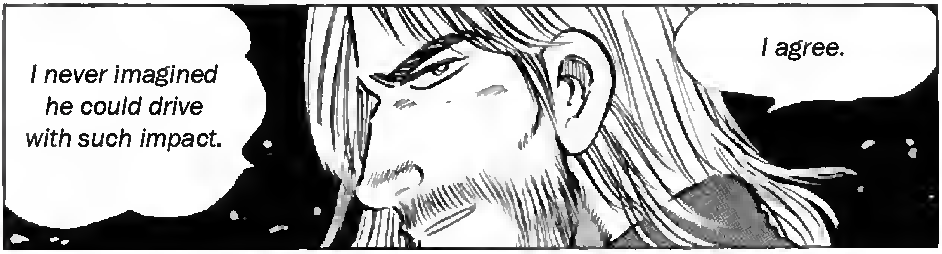
VROOOH
Marlboro
Lucas

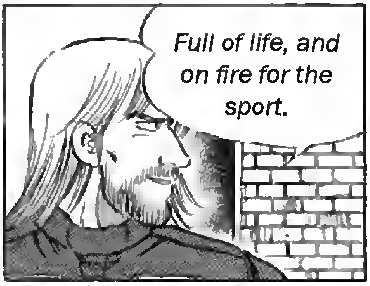

SUZUKA
TEAM
BO
DUNMA AKAGI
38
VROOOOOH

VROOOOOH

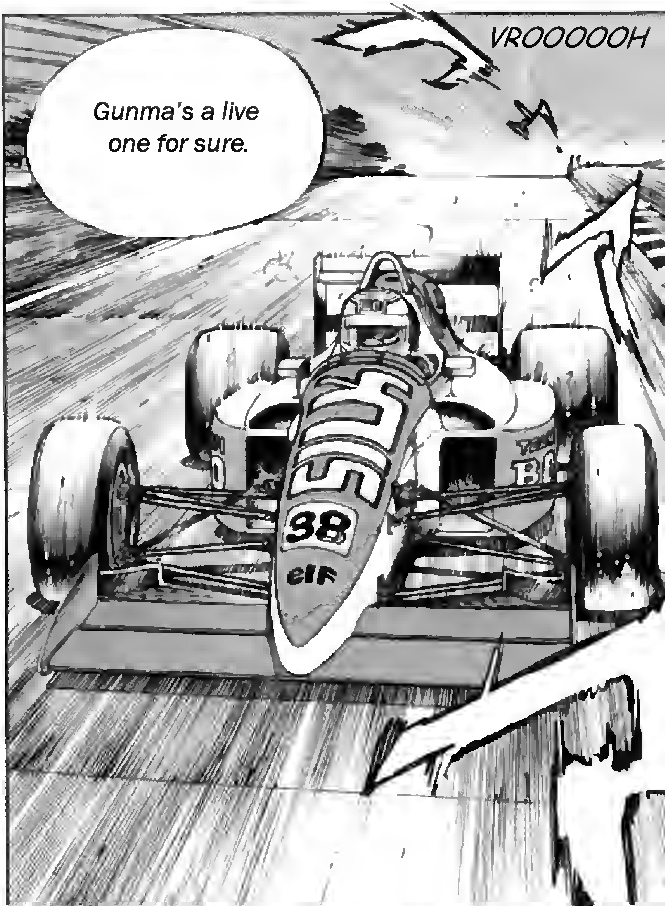
TEAM
BUNMA AKAGI
38

You'd never think he's been out for six months with an injury, racing like that. Ha ha ha...
What do you think, young fellow?
You must be regretting your decision to let him go by now.


I never imagined he could drive with such impact.
I agree.

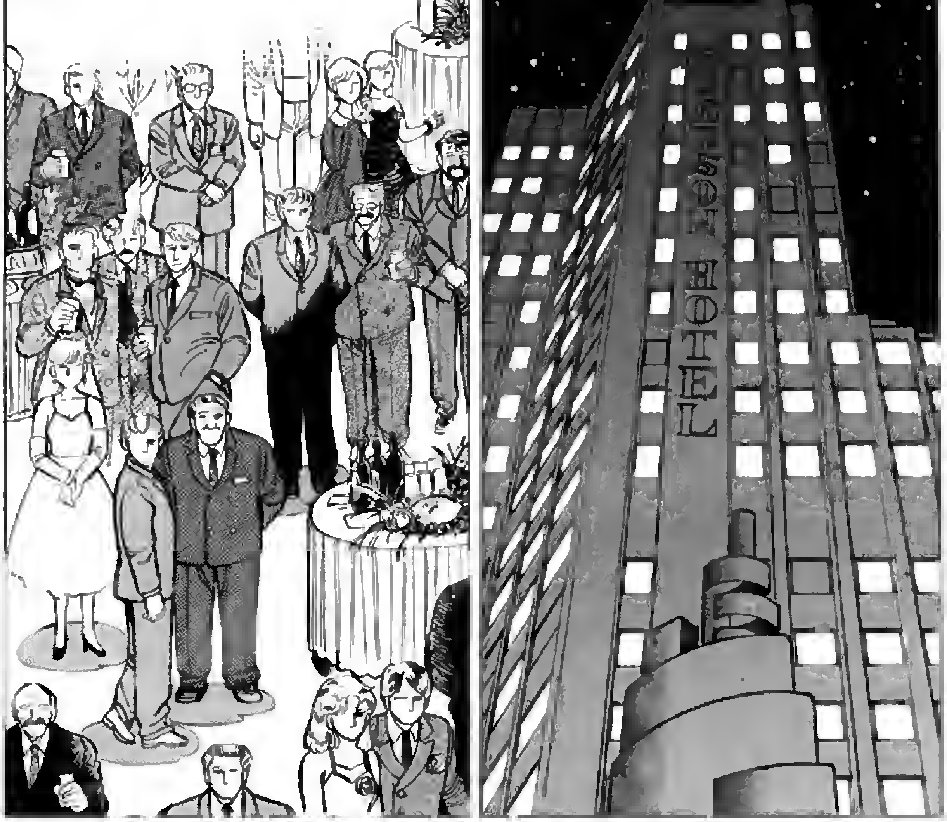

Full of life, and on fire for the sport.

But that can be a deadly combo on its own.
Never thought of it that way.

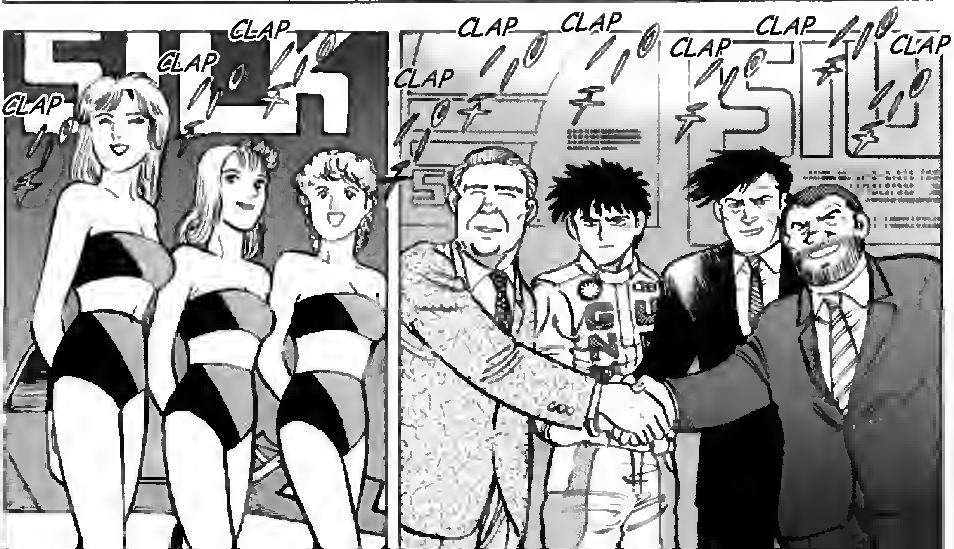

VROOOOOH
Gunma's a live one for sure.
38
elf

And that goes for you too, boy!
I'll never die in a race.
Every fire burns out eventually, and all living things must perish.
Calm down, Orman.
What!?
Not my life.
Racing is my job.
ドカアーン
SHOOOM
You...
Just let it go, Orman.

ZOOO
BREHHH
AVON
BZOOOOH
A live one, he says.



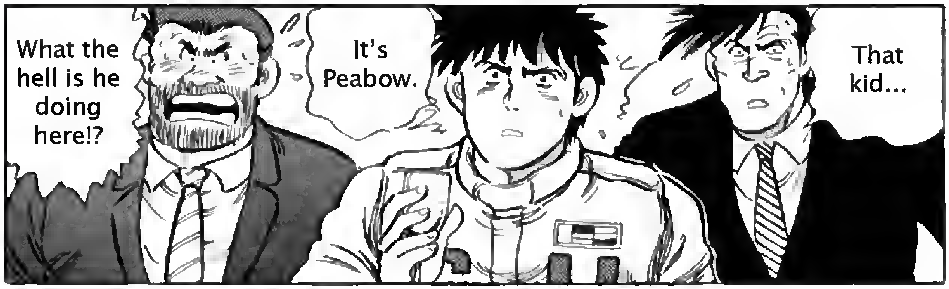
'90
SILK·B·O'S GOOD EVENING



Hey, what are you doing?
Relax.
Come on, mate. I could get fired for this.
Right!
We're about to be famous, mate!
Just shut up.
I had nothing to do with this. Absolutely nothing.
We'll take care of the rest, so get lost.
...and his new team!
FLASH
Ladies and gentlemen, I'd like to make a toast... To Gunma Akagi's recovery...

Think of this as a good dose of petrol for the spirit!
Hold your horses there, lad!
Come on, where's my drink?
Cheers!
HAHAHAHA
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
One more!

Gunma, you will never taste the sweet nectar of victory again!
All that's left for you is a life of misery, misfortune, and death!
MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER
Be cursed, Gunma Akagi!

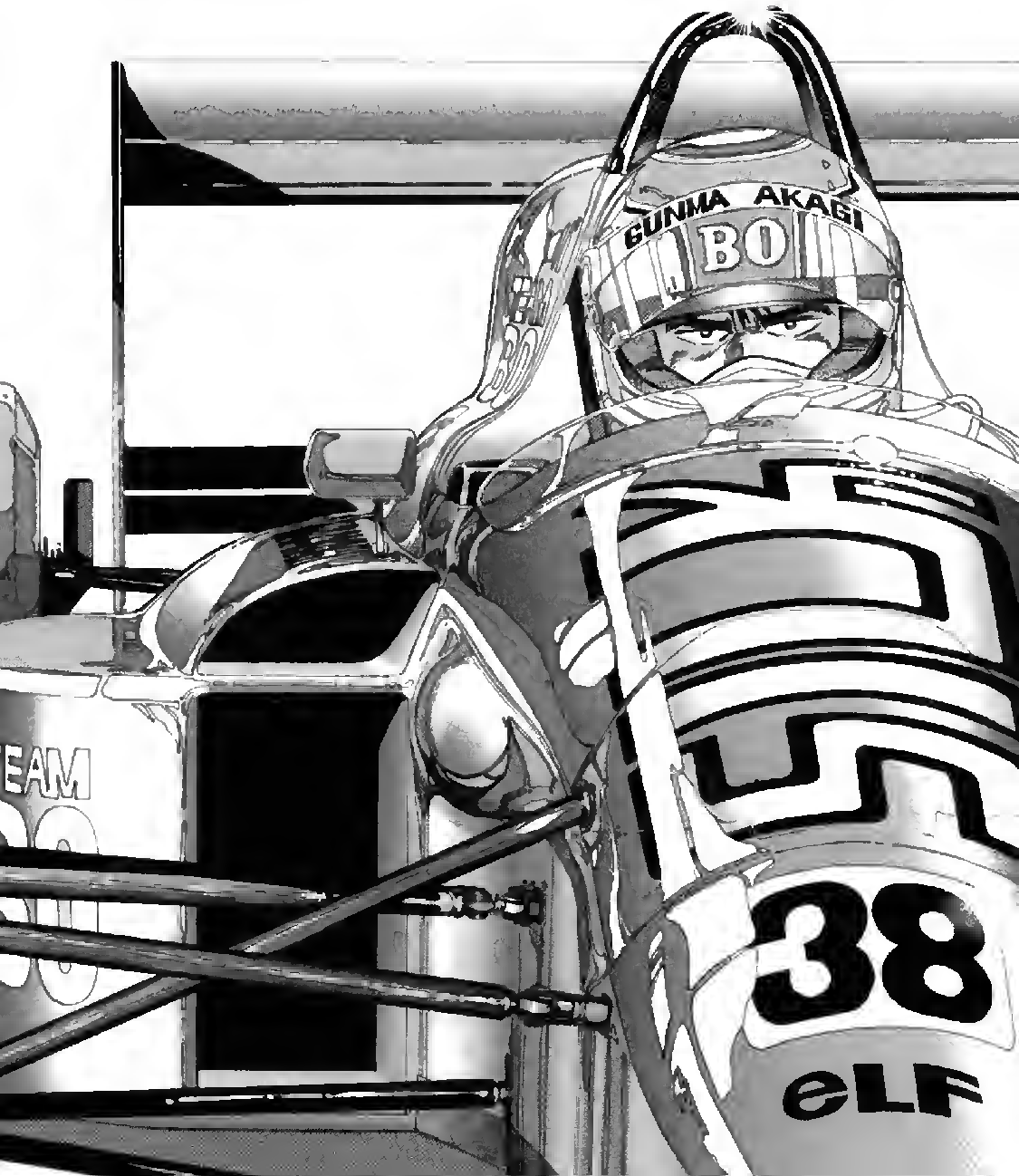

What the hell is he doing here!?
It's Peabow.
That kid...

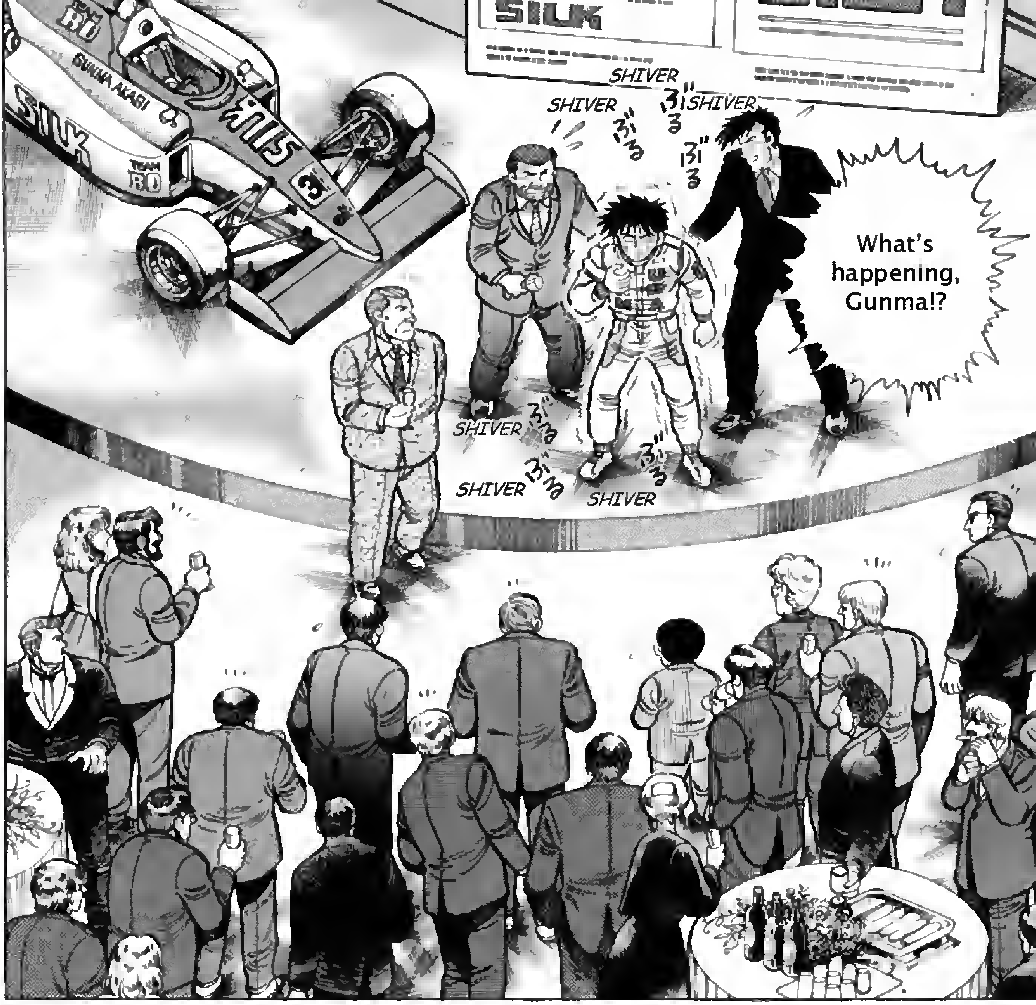
Somebody shut this guy up!
That if you ever hurt Sako, I would kill you!
I made a vow long ago!
And now you'll die, Gunma!
SHATTER

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
Gunma!
What's wrong, Gunma!?
GUNMA

VOL.19

Chapter 8:
Bonsai




SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
What's happening, Gunma!?
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

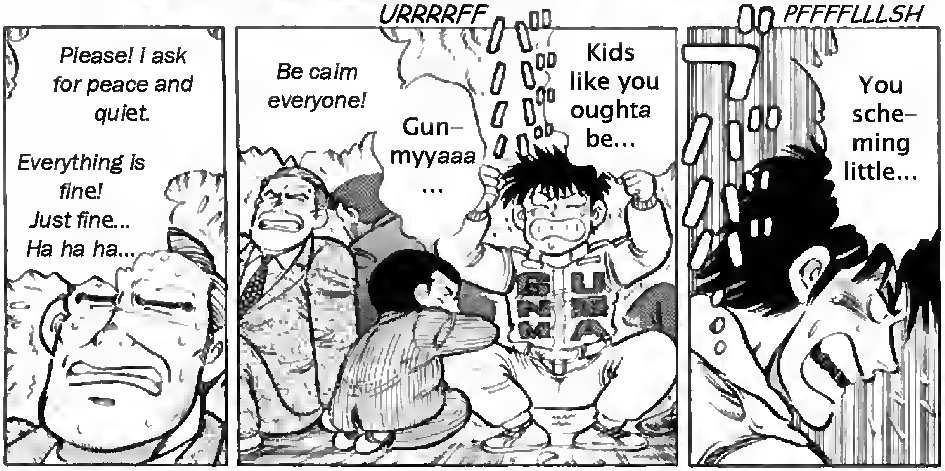
...slipped somethin' in that drink, didn't you...
Peabow, you...

GRIN

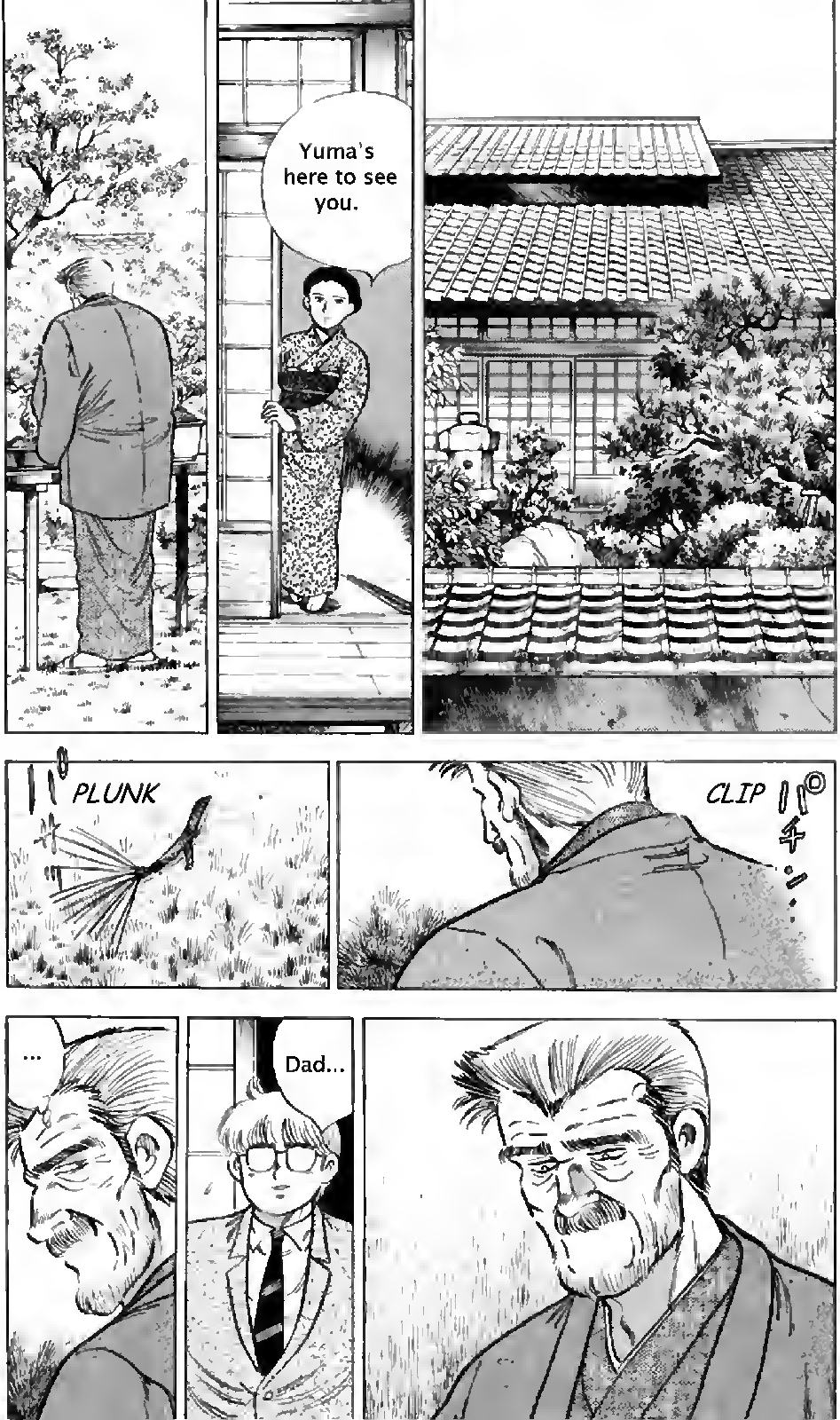
Someone stop that boy!
GULUL
GULULULULUL
IRRK
GULULUL
UL
Unn gh.
ULUL
GULULUL
My stomach...
GURGLE
GURGLE
GURGLE
GURGLE
I... can't bear this...
GULULULUL
GURGLE
GURGLE
FWOOP
...did you put in that drink!?
What the hell...
PFFFFT
What the devil is happening?
GURRRRK
GULULUL
I can't... hold it...
URP

D...
WOOSH
You'll be crapping your pants till the break of dawn, Gunma!
Laxatives!?
So be very afraid! 'Cause next time it won't be laxatives, it'll be poison!
PFFT
URRFF
GULULULUL
Where's the bloody washroom in this place!?
I can't even stand...
PFFFT
PFFFT
What is that godawful smell!?
GURGLE
GURGLE
GURGLE
I can't hold it any longer!
Look who's talking you fool!
GURGLE
GURGLE
GURGLE
URRFF

URRFF
You sneaky little...
URRFF
Gunma ...
Get back here, Peabow!
URRFF

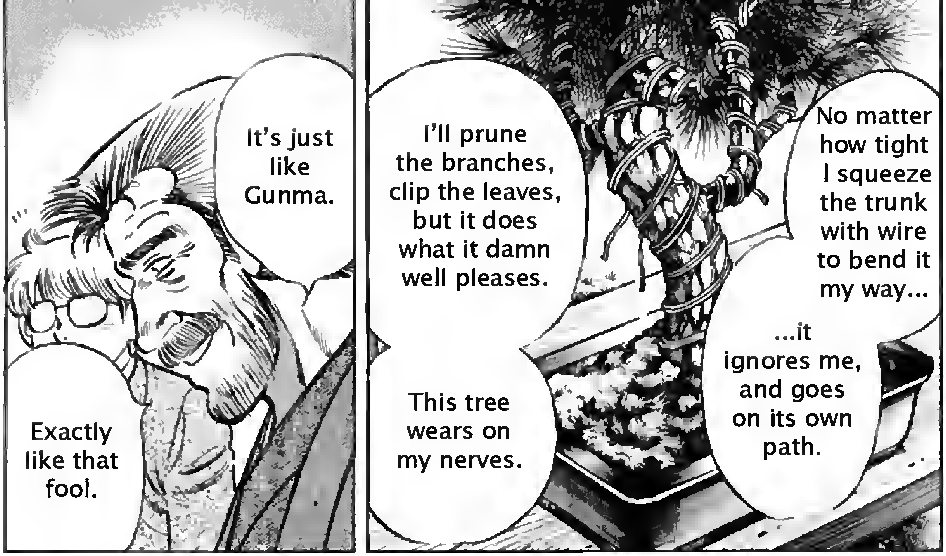

Please! I ask for peace and quiet.
Everything is fine! Just fine... Ha ha ha...
URRRRFF
Be calm everyone!
Gun-myyaaa ...
Kids like you oughta be...
PFFFFLLLSH
You sche-ming little...

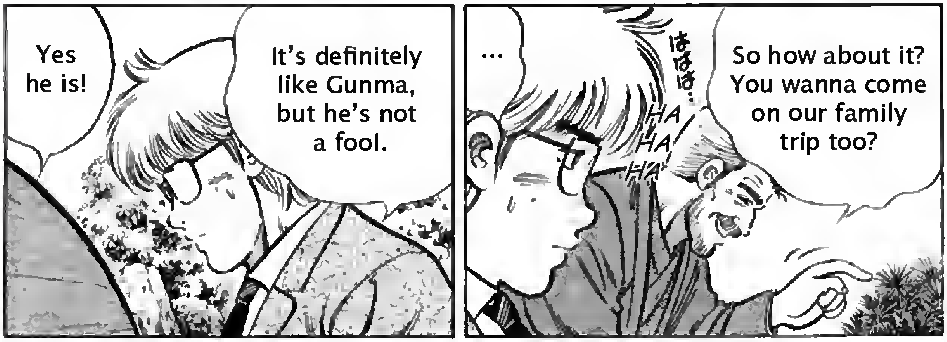
WOOM
What are you talking about!?
Just wanted to say, we have plenty of new underwear for times of crisis like this.
BOOF
Just call a doctor you idiot!
SNIGGOO
I can't hold it! Urrgh!
PIGGOOOO
We here at SILK offer our full support to Gunma Akagi and Team BO...
So don't go commando, go Silk: Maker of Fine English Undergments.

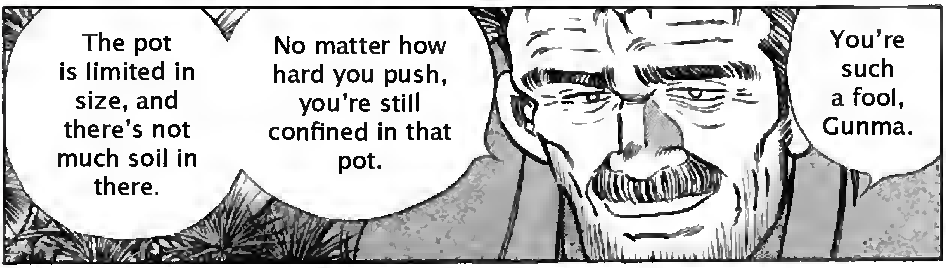

Yuma's here to see you.
PLUNK
CLIP
チ…
…
Dad...

...
A bonsai tree, huh...
I thought you hated those.
The tree is stifled from taking its natural form...
Defor-med?
Because they're deformed.
...even cul-tures and civilizations are nothing more than deformities.
That's how the world works. Mm-hm...
But...
...
...manipu-lated by human hands into something smaller.
How's the com-pany?
...

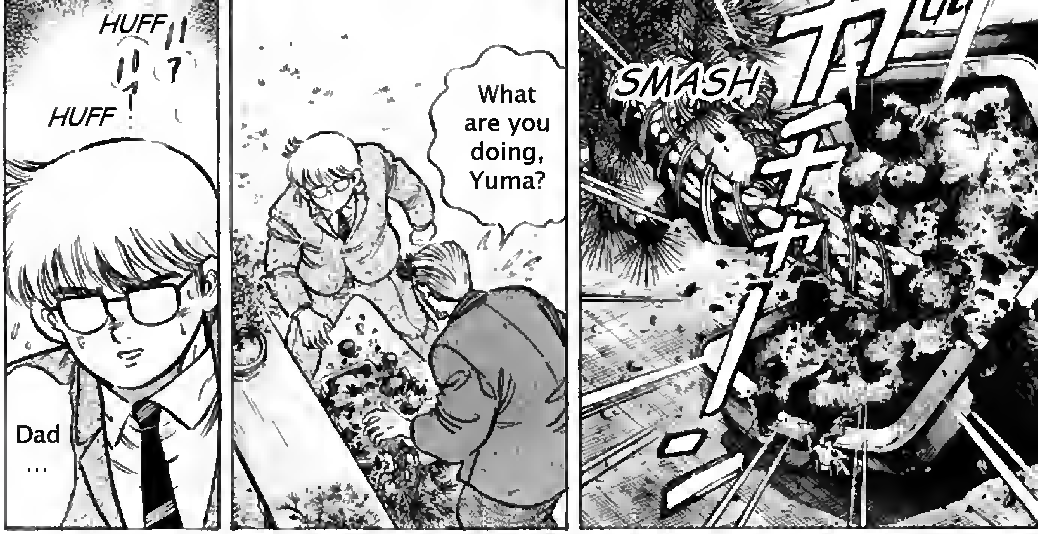
Every-thing will be just fine, mm-hm
Then Shoma will snap out of his depression.
And once the police are done with Uncle Tatsu, he'll be arrested.
Kasai's reliable...
He'll know what to do for sure, mm-hm...
I've left it all to Kasai.
He'll make every-thing work.
Come here, Yuma. I've got something to show you.
Dad...
Maybe play some shogi, or a game of cards... Have a karaoke contest.
We'll bathe in some hot springs, feast on delica-cies, and just take it easy.
Let's go on a family trip when things calm down.
Okay...
Come on, you'll love it.
Like it's refusing to obey anyone.
It's so stubborn, so selfish...
Just look at that tree.

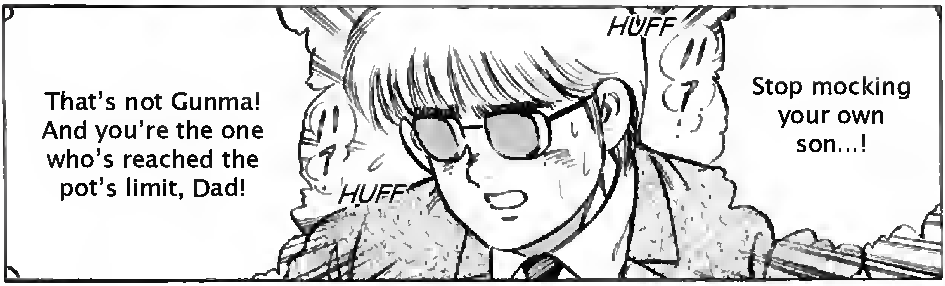

It's just like Gunma.
Exactly like that fool.
I'll prune the branches, clip the leaves, but it does what it damn well pleases.
This tree wears on my nerves.
No matter how tight I squeeze the trunk with wire to bend it my way...
...it ignores me, and goes on its own path.


Yes he is!
It's definitely like Gunma, but he's not a fool.
...
はは…
HA HA HA
So how about it? You wanna come on our family trip too?


The pot is limited in size, and there's not much soil in there.
No matter how hard you push, you're still confined in that pot.
You're such a fool, Gunma.

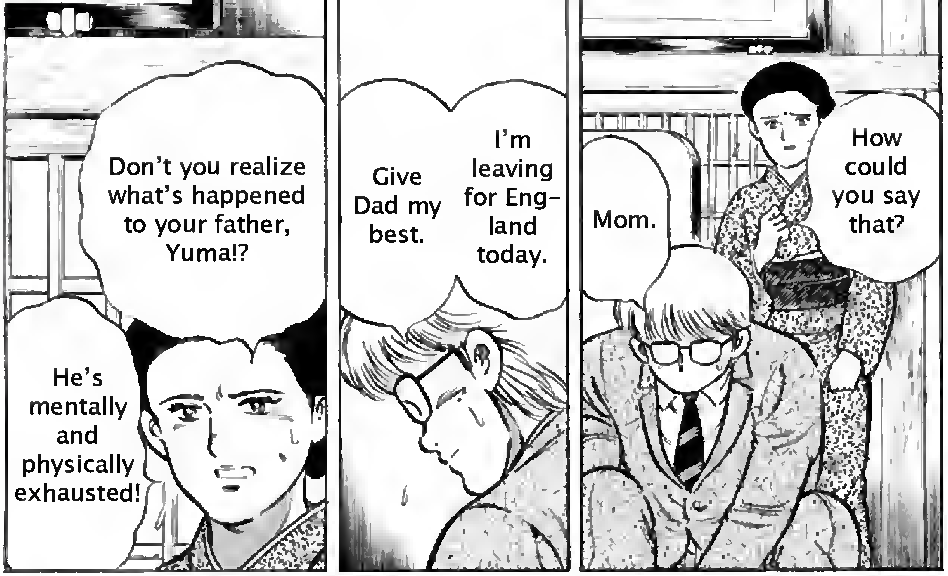
...
Ha ha ha ha...
You're a fool not to know that!


HUFF
HUFF
Dad
...
What are you doing, Yuma?
SMASH
ナイフ
チャリーン

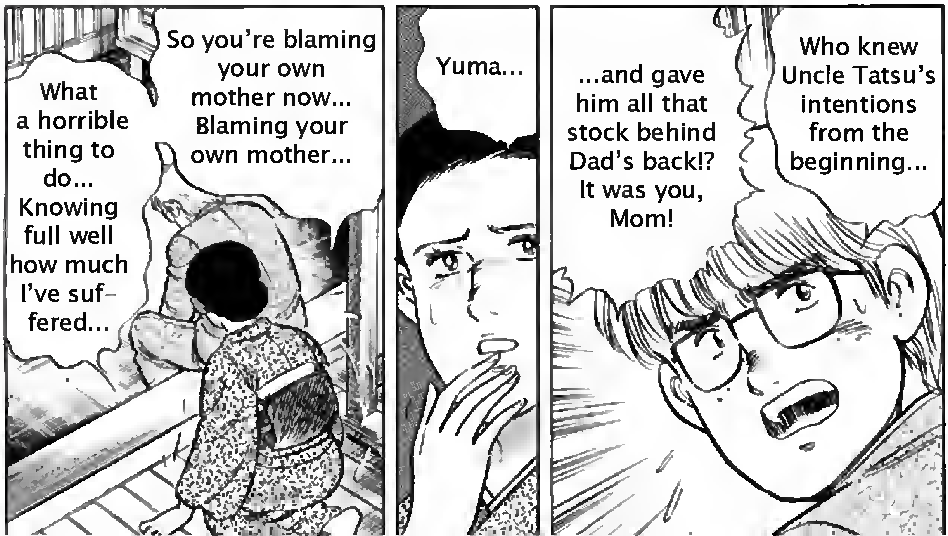

That's not Gunma! And you're the one who's reached the pot's limit, Dad!
HUFF
HUFF
Stop mocking your own son...!

Yuma!?
...

Yuma, don't go...
Wait...
...he's not as foolish as you think, and he's going places in this world! Before you know it, he's gonna pass you up, Dad!
Your son... Or my brother Gunma at least...

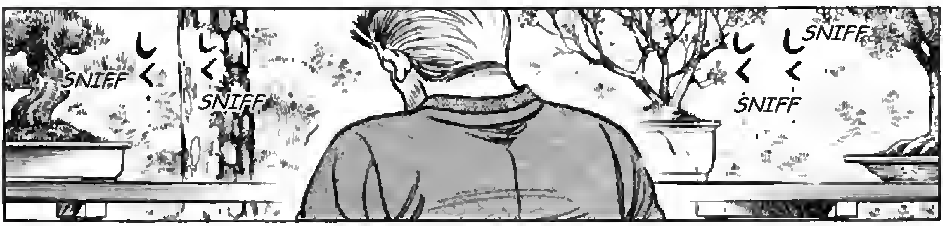

Don't you realize what's happened to your father, Yuma!?
He's mentally and physically exhausted!
Give Dad my best.
I'm leaving for England today.
Mom.
How could you say that?

Then who wounded him?
What you just said to him is like throwing stones at a wounded dog!
His election was ruined, and he's been kicked out of his own company.

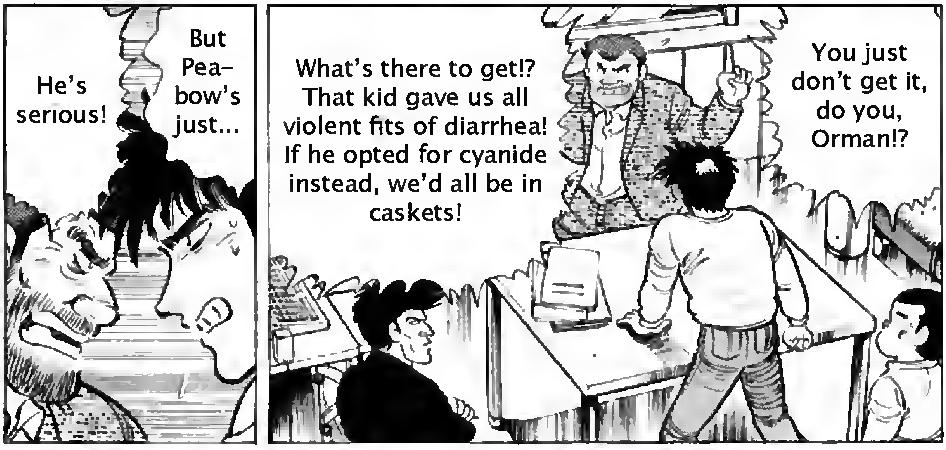

What a horrible thing to do... Knowing full well how much I've suffered...
So you're blaming your own mother now... Blaming your own mother...
Yuma...
...and gave him all that stock behind Dad's back!? It was you, Mom!
Who knew Uncle Tatsu's intentions from the beginning...

You know all these things, but you still...
...and what sort of hell I've been living through all these years.
Knowing how long he's betrayed me...
But I... really am sorry.
I have to go now.
...
I'm sorry, Mom.
...ever since I was a kid...
When I think back...
But to her oldest son Shoma, she'd offer nothing but encouragement, and push him to succeed.
...Mom would always tell me, as the youngest child, the same complaints over and over.

BADUMP
...is almost like stifling the bonsai tree with wires...
The way she tied us down...
I hate it!
I can't stand it!
Who'd ever want to display bonsai with such deformities?
HUFF
One is the spoiled, irrelevant bonsai, while the other is drunk with pride, but a coward at heart.
Just like Gunma!
I want to break those wires and live free!
You just wait, Gunma! I swear I'll pass you up!


SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF
SNIFF

No! We turn that rotten kid over to the police...
TEAM B·O Office
You gotta trust me on this!
...and get his ass locked up!
Come on!


He's serious!
But Pea-bow's just...
What's there to get!? That kid gave us all violent fits of diarrhea! If he opted for cyanide instead, we'd all be in caskets!
You just don't get it, do you, Orman!?

I could see it in his eyes!
And next time he's coming for your life!

So we go to the police.
I took Sako away from him after all.
Of course he's serious, I won't deny that...
SUPER STAFF

Don't be ridiculous!
That's between me and him!
I'll give it to him if he wants it bad enough!
Gunma ...
If he wants to take my life, then I'll let him try!
SUPER STAFF
BAM
I dragged Peabow into my life.
Ya'll listen up!
Kuroi, you too?
You gotta chill out... You can't race like this!
...he's still a part of me...
And deep down...
...how the hell do you expect me to race!?
...and if you take that away...

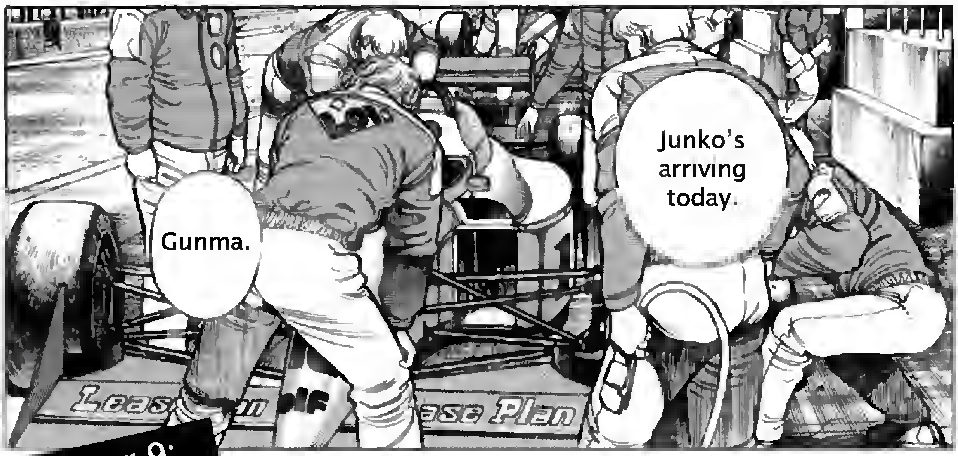
What does racing even mean to you!?
Gunma ...
If he says he wants to kill me, I can deal with that.
SUPER STAFF
LOUD
CHARM UP
5
But the only way I can respond to it is by racing!
...you're the last person I thought I'd hear that from.
Orman ...

It's what I live and breathe for!
It's the meaning of my existence.

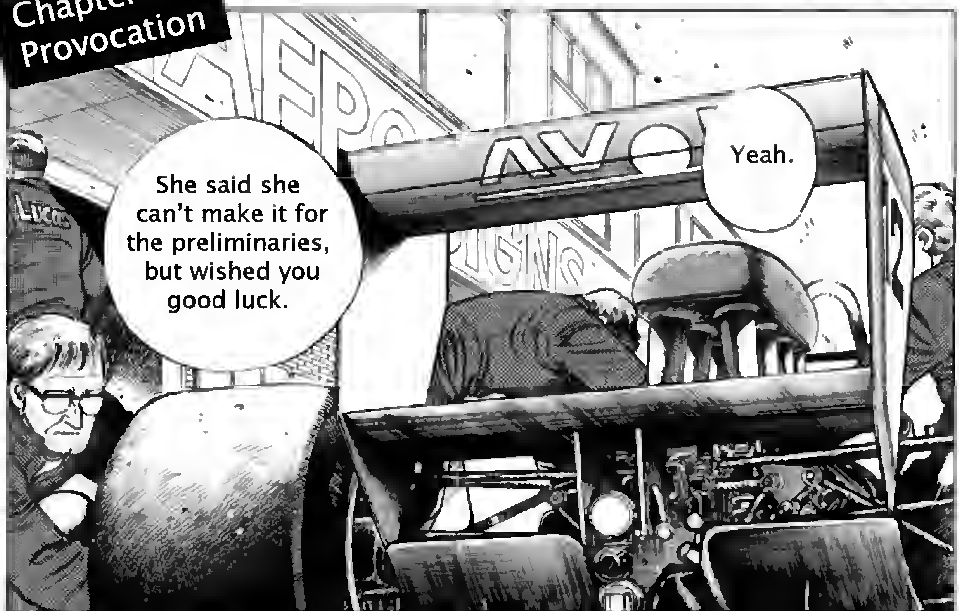
Gunma's a live one for sure.
Live……

Don't tell the police about Peabow!
So please, Orman!

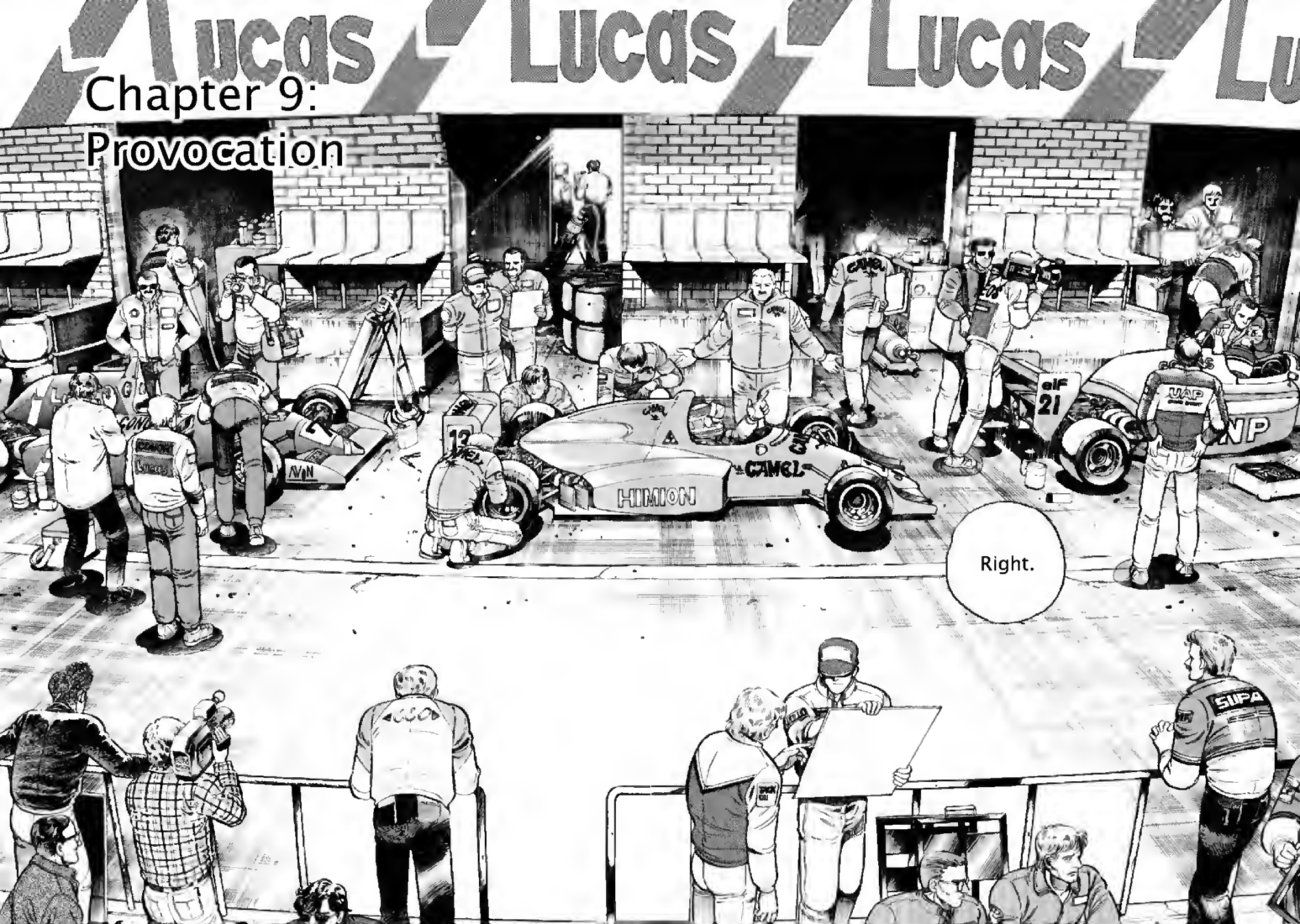
Live, huh...
...

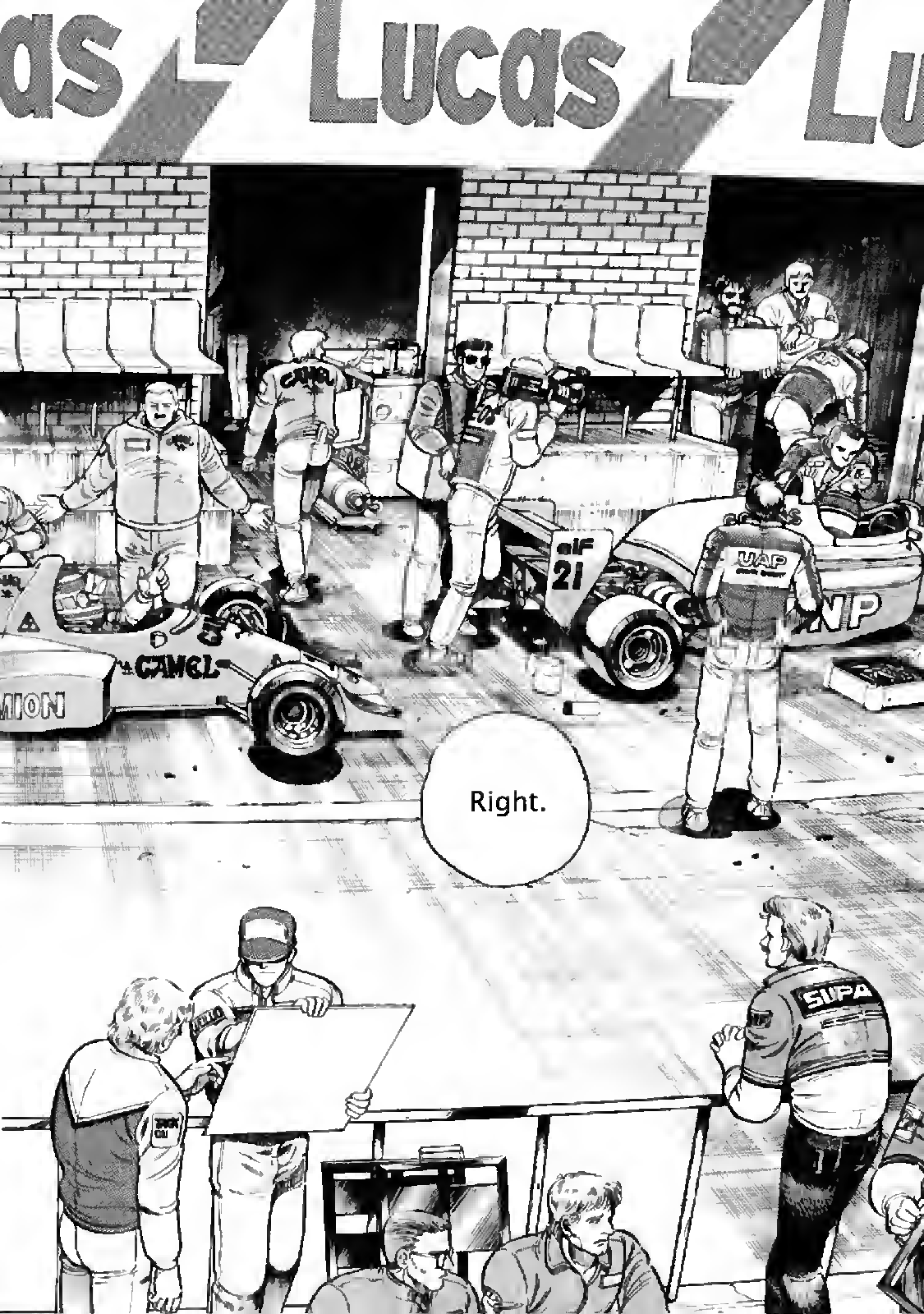


Chapter 9: Provocation

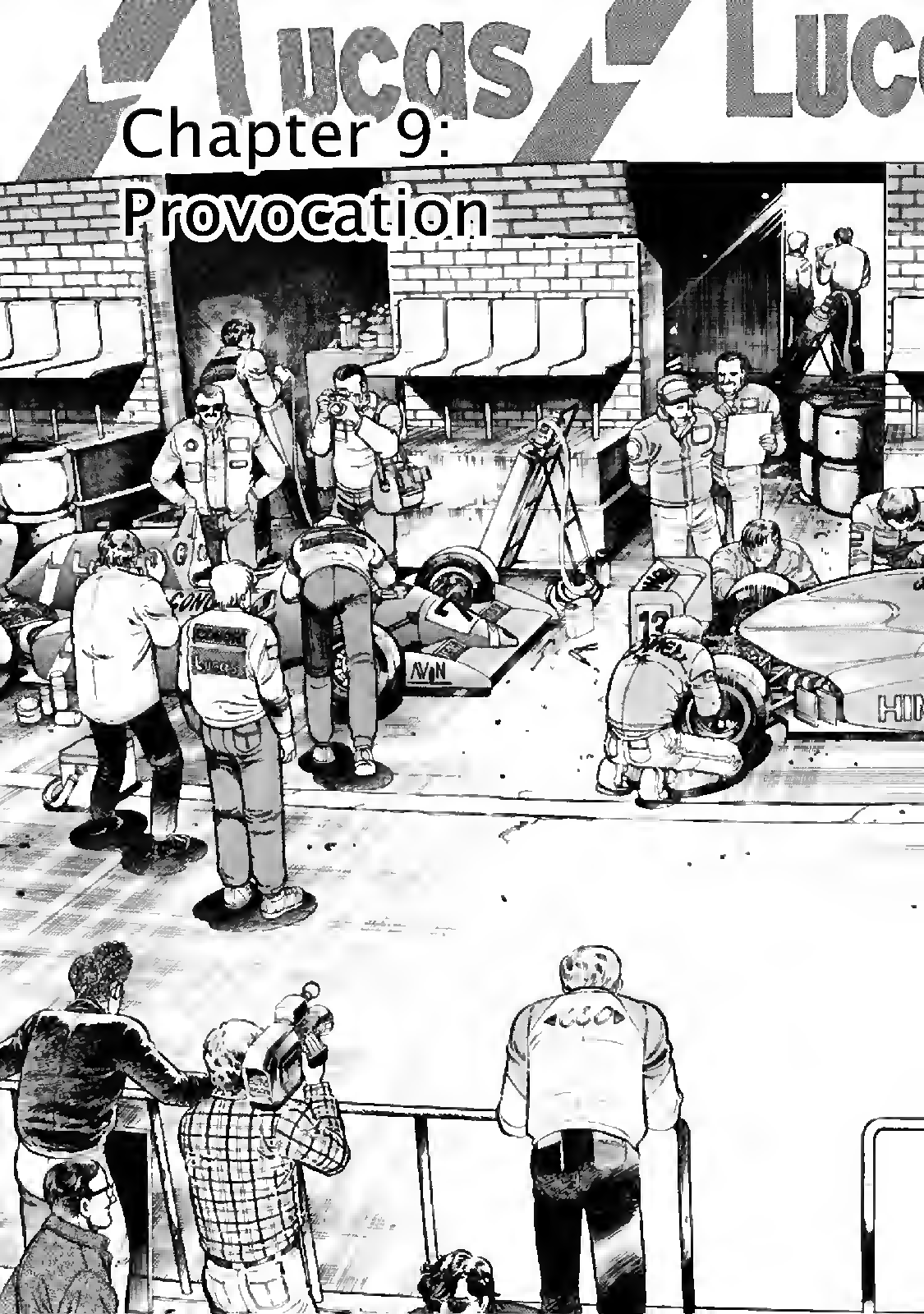


Chapter 9: Provocation

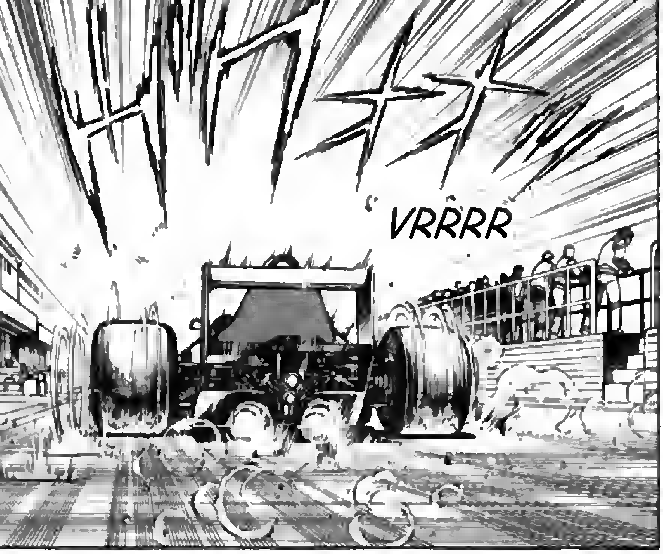


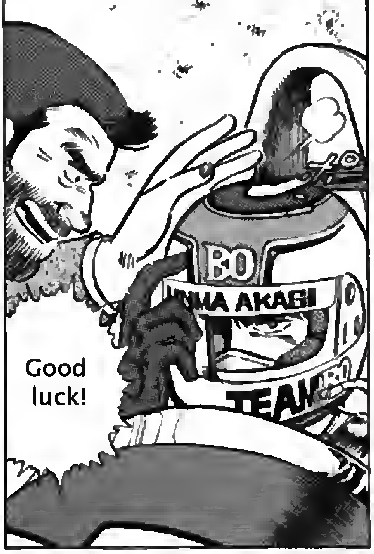

Lucas
CAMEL
elf
21
UAP
SUPA
Right.

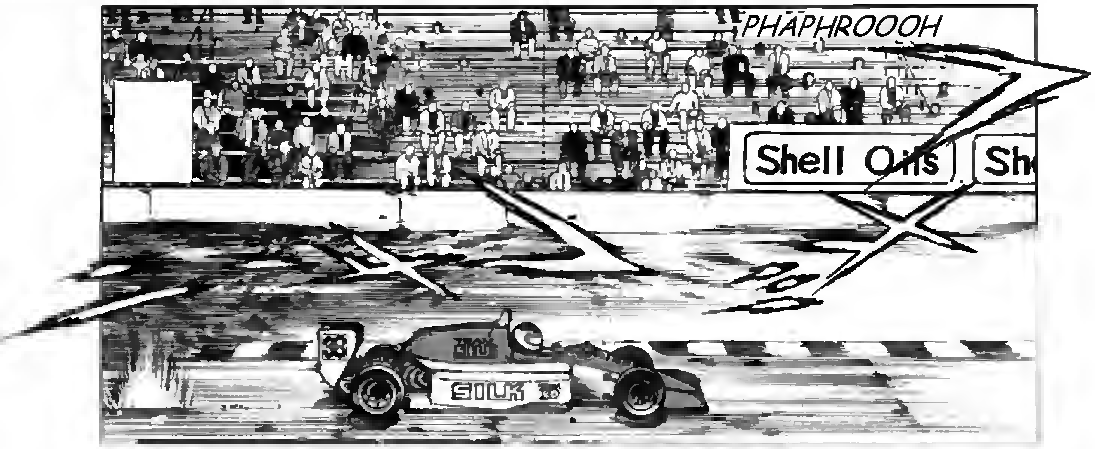
Chapter 9: Provocation

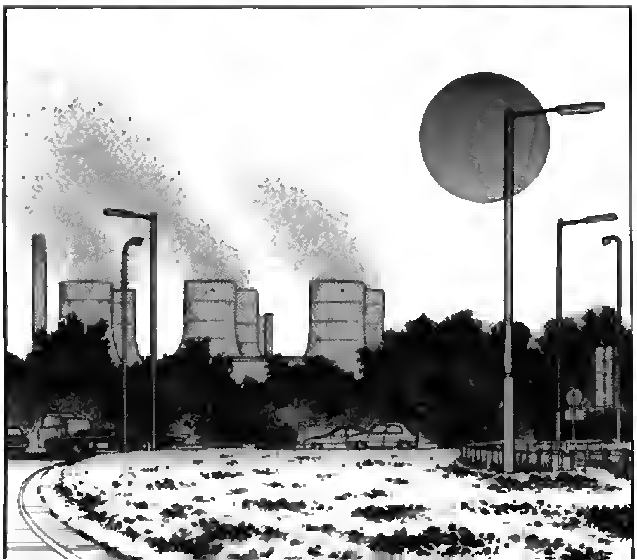


HONDA
YAK
YAK
...
GRAAAH
...from the stands.
That crazy kid might aim a gun at you...
You worried?
So what if he does.
Ha...
ZOOM
Jesus is makin' good time as expected.
1:00.58!


VRRRR


Good luck!
TEAM


PHAPHROOOH
Shell Oils
SILK

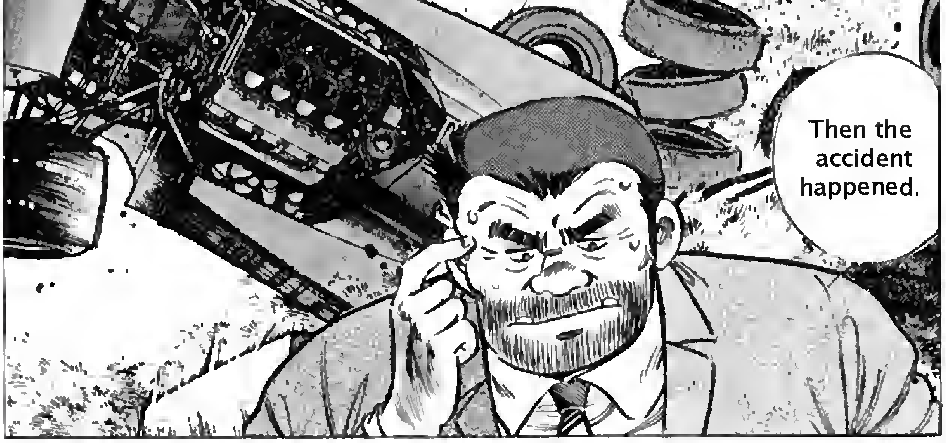


...

That girl Gunma was seeing before he raced in Birmingham, Sako was the name I believe...
...she committed a crime, and Tamotsu was trying to hide it from Gunma.
I don't understand anymore.
MIDLERRIDGE

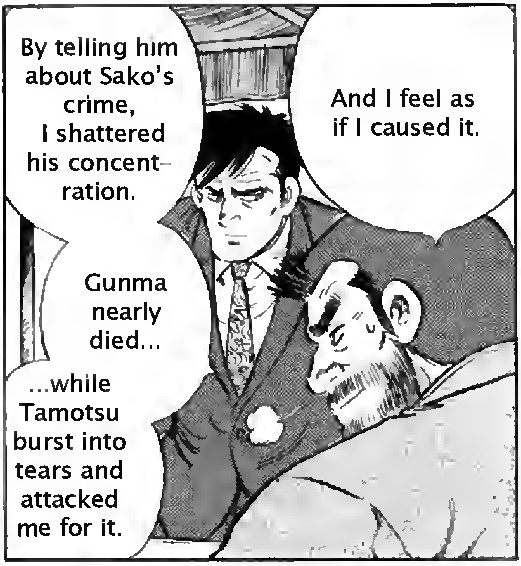
I've never been keen on hiding the truth from my drivers, or being overprotective of them.
But I disagreed.
He didn't want Gunma to be under any sort of psychological strain while he's racing.

I thought once he gathered his thoughts, he'd be ready to race.
When he heard that, he locked himself in the restroom for a while.
Right. Gunma picked up a newspaper in the paddock with that article in it, and I read it to him.
So that's why you told him everything...

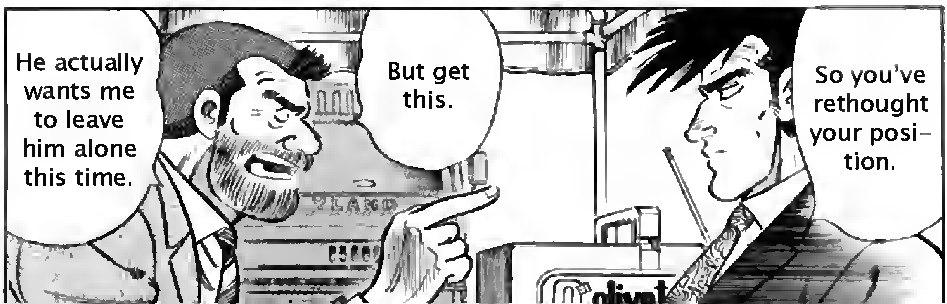

Then the accident happened.

So that's why you want to turn that Peabow kid over to the police?
More or less.

That really disturbed me.


By telling him about Sako's crime, I shattered his concentration.
Gunma nearly died...
...while Tamotsu burst into tears and attacked me for it.
And I feel as if I caused it.

At least in the circuit, I think we need to create an atmosphere where the driver feels at ease, taking a load off his mind.
I was too cold to him. I thought he could deal with that on his own, and told him to get over it.

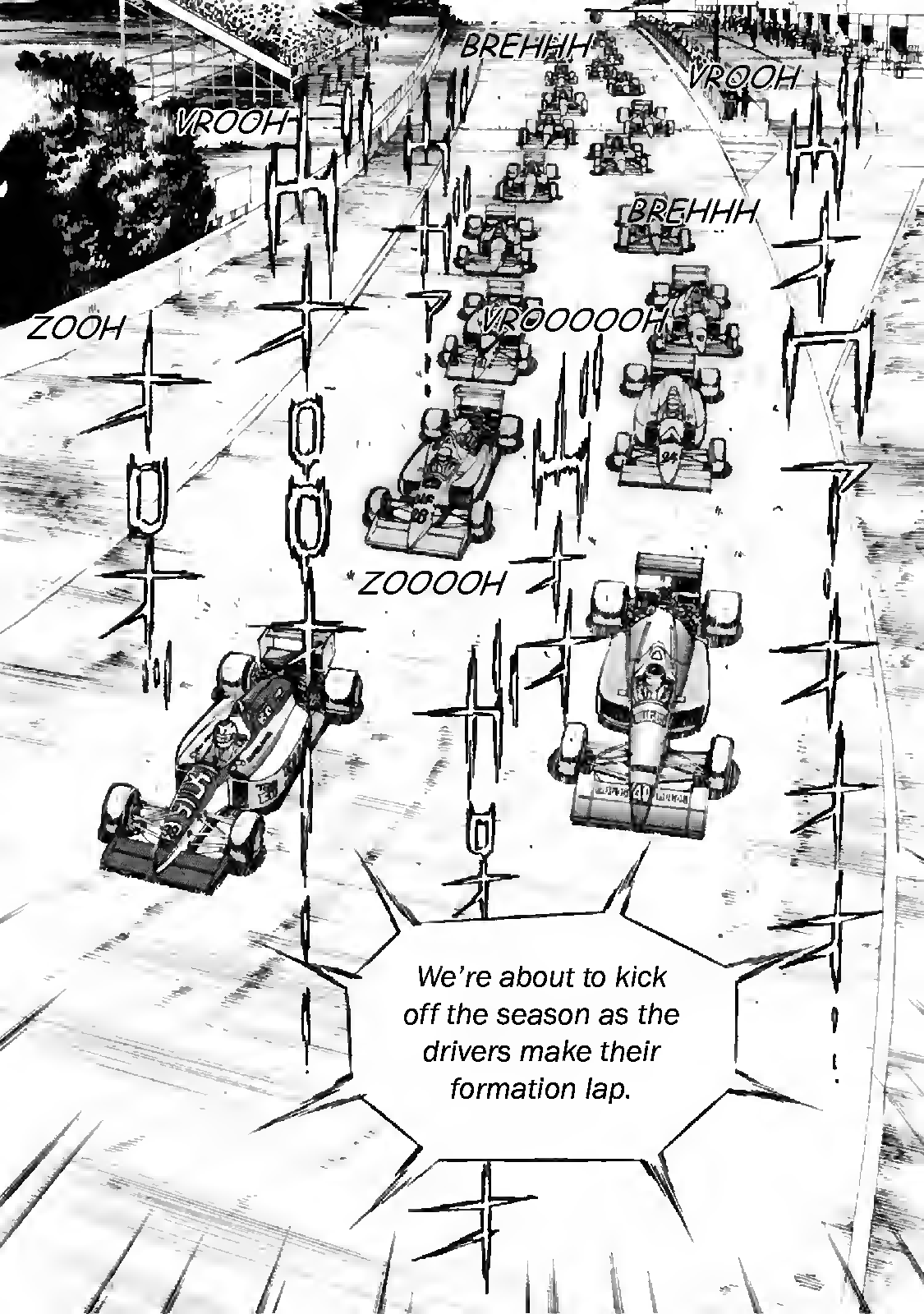

He actually wants me to leave him alone this time.
But get this.
So you've rethought your position.

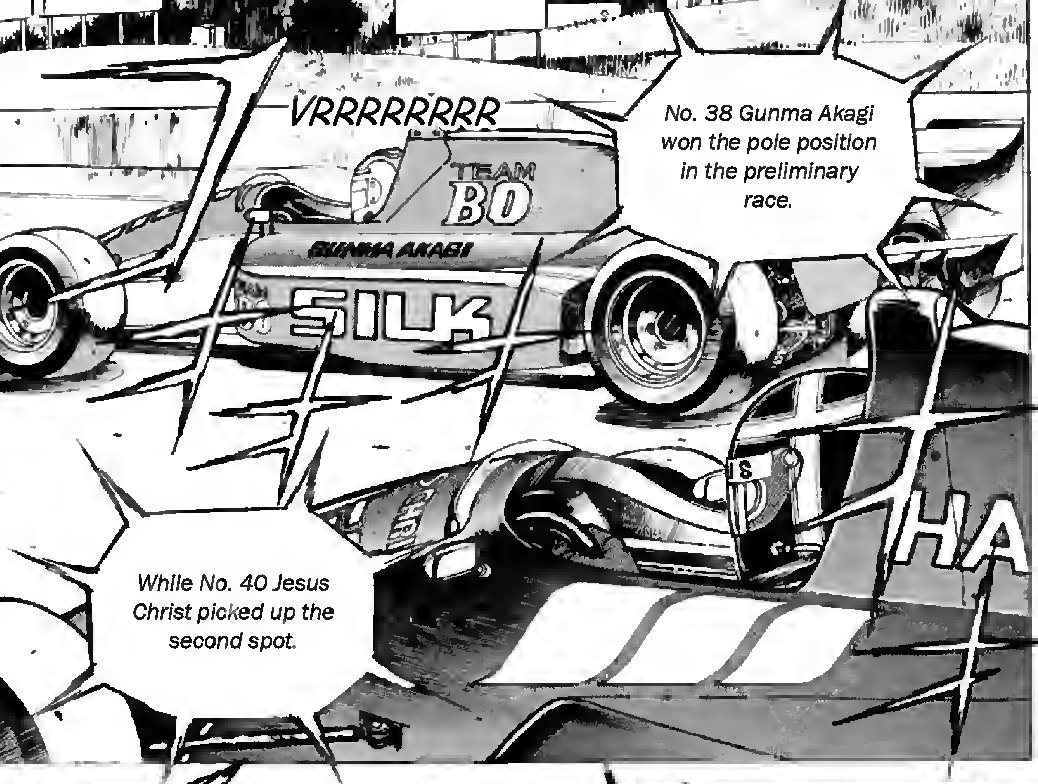
BAM
Just under a minute at 59.58... How the hell does he do it?
And now he's got pole position!
Can you believe it? Somebody's trying to kill him, and he wants to deal with it alone!
He said that Peabow's his own problem, and a part of his life.
Well, even though he's getting death threats, Peabow's just a kid.
How did he go so fast?
I can't figure him out.
Why hello, Ms. Junko!
...!?
Nothing to get too jumpy about.
I hope you're right.

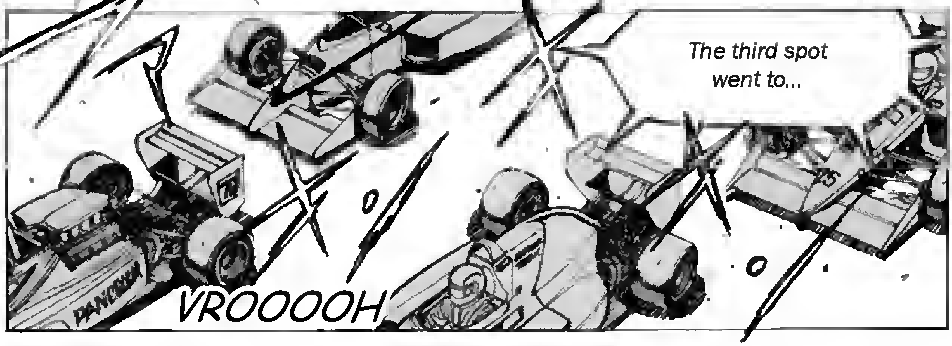
YAK
YAK
These guys are nuts.
YAK
YAK
Translate for me, Tamotsu!
That's enough already.
I wanna get back to the hotel and take a hot shower.
Junko...
Gimme a nice pose, Junko!
Ah ...
Yo, camera man! Get another picture over here!
Sorry I'm late.
GUNMA
GUNMA

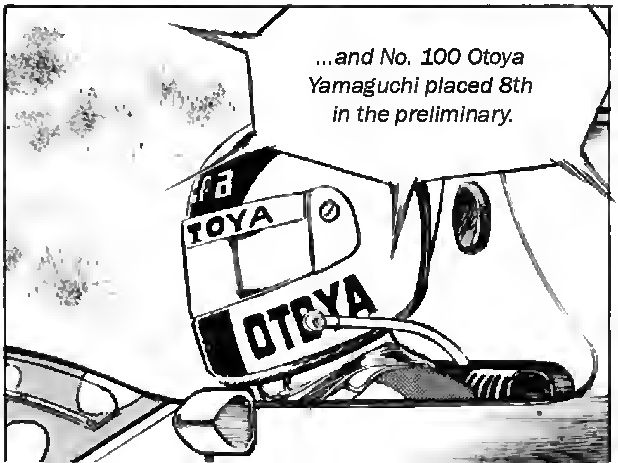
I'm tryin' to provoke Peabow!
Just go along with this, okay?
SNAP
Hey!
SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
Just do me a favor!
Huh?
SNAP
SNAP
...
shell oils

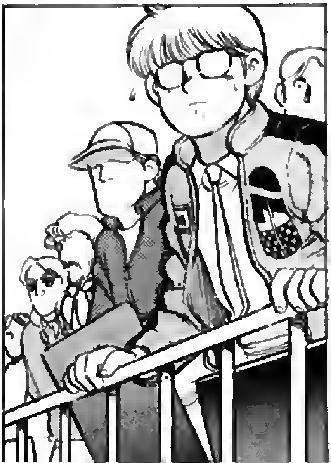
I'll kill you for that!
And I'll kill you for that!
You screwed up Sako's life!
I'll get you for this, Gunma!
VROO
ZOOM
VRRROOH
VRROO
I'll kill you...!

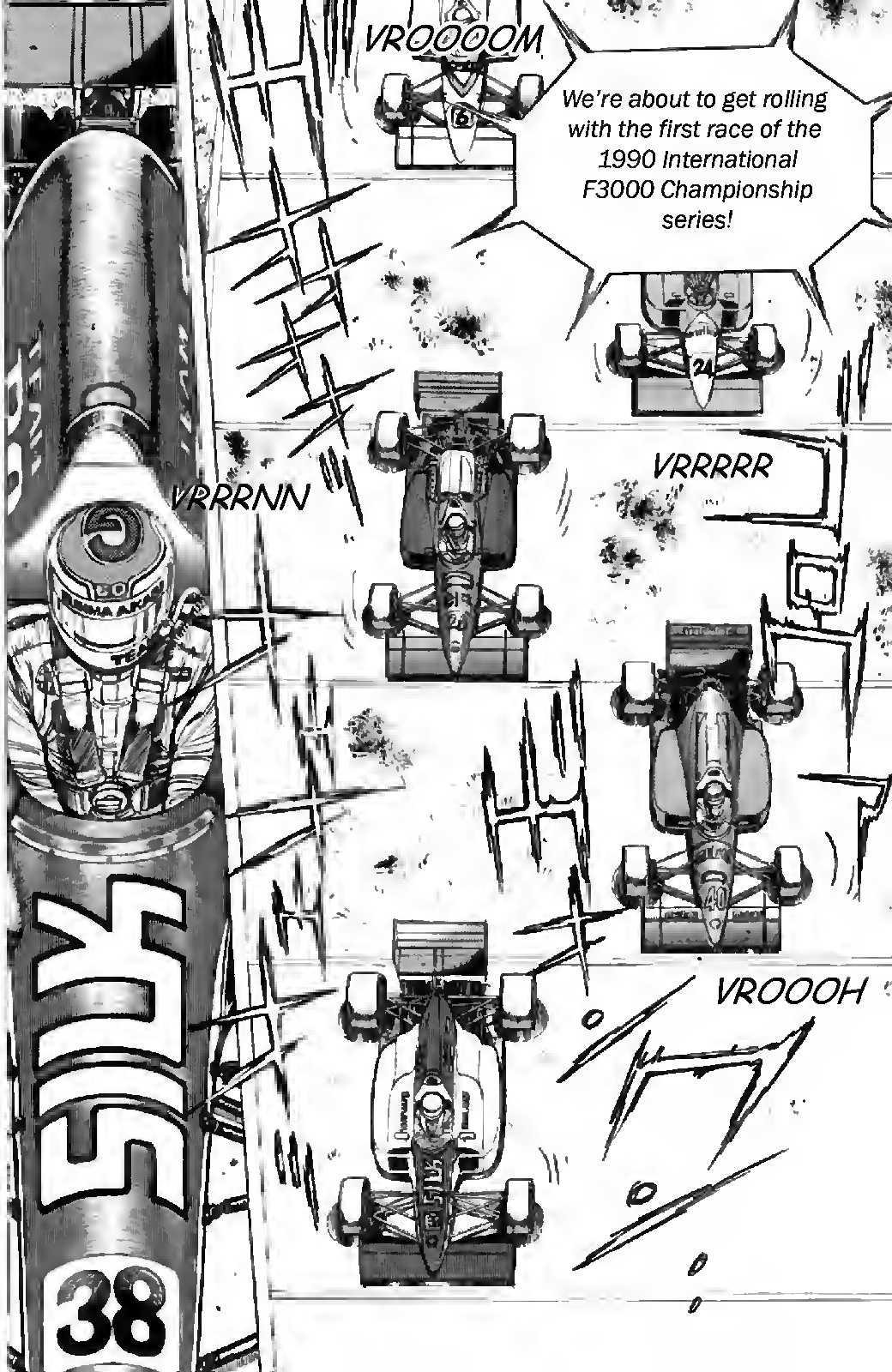

BREHHH
VROOH
VROOH
BREHHH
ZOOH
VROOOOOH
ZOOOOH
We're about to kick off the season as the drivers make their formation lap.

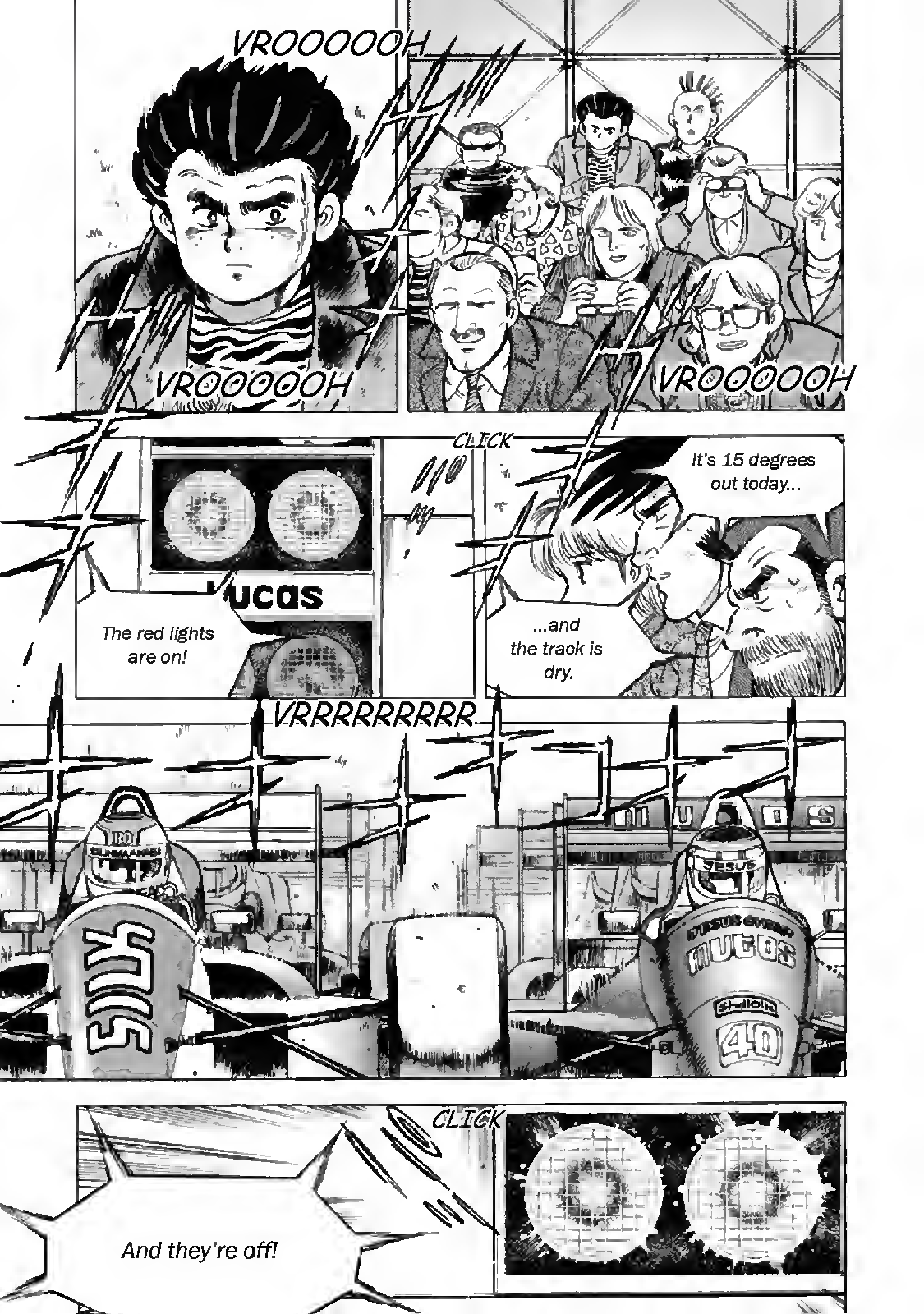

VRRRRRRRR
No. 38 Gunma Akagi won the pole position in the preliminary race.
TEAM BO
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
HA
While No. 40 Jesus Christ picked up the second spot.

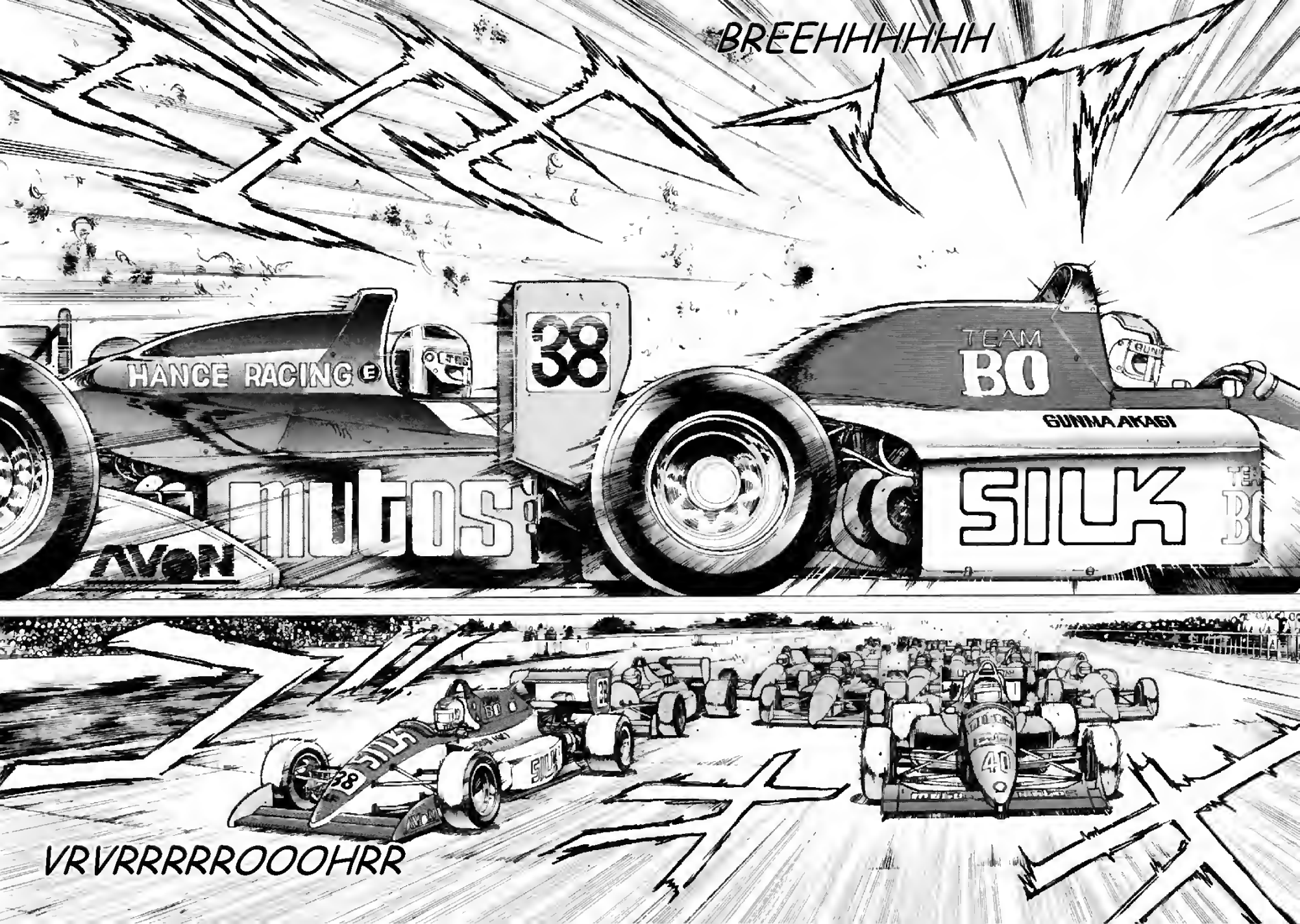

The third spot went to...
VROOOOH


...and No. 100 Otoya Yamaguchi placed 8th in the preliminary.
TOYA
OTOYA

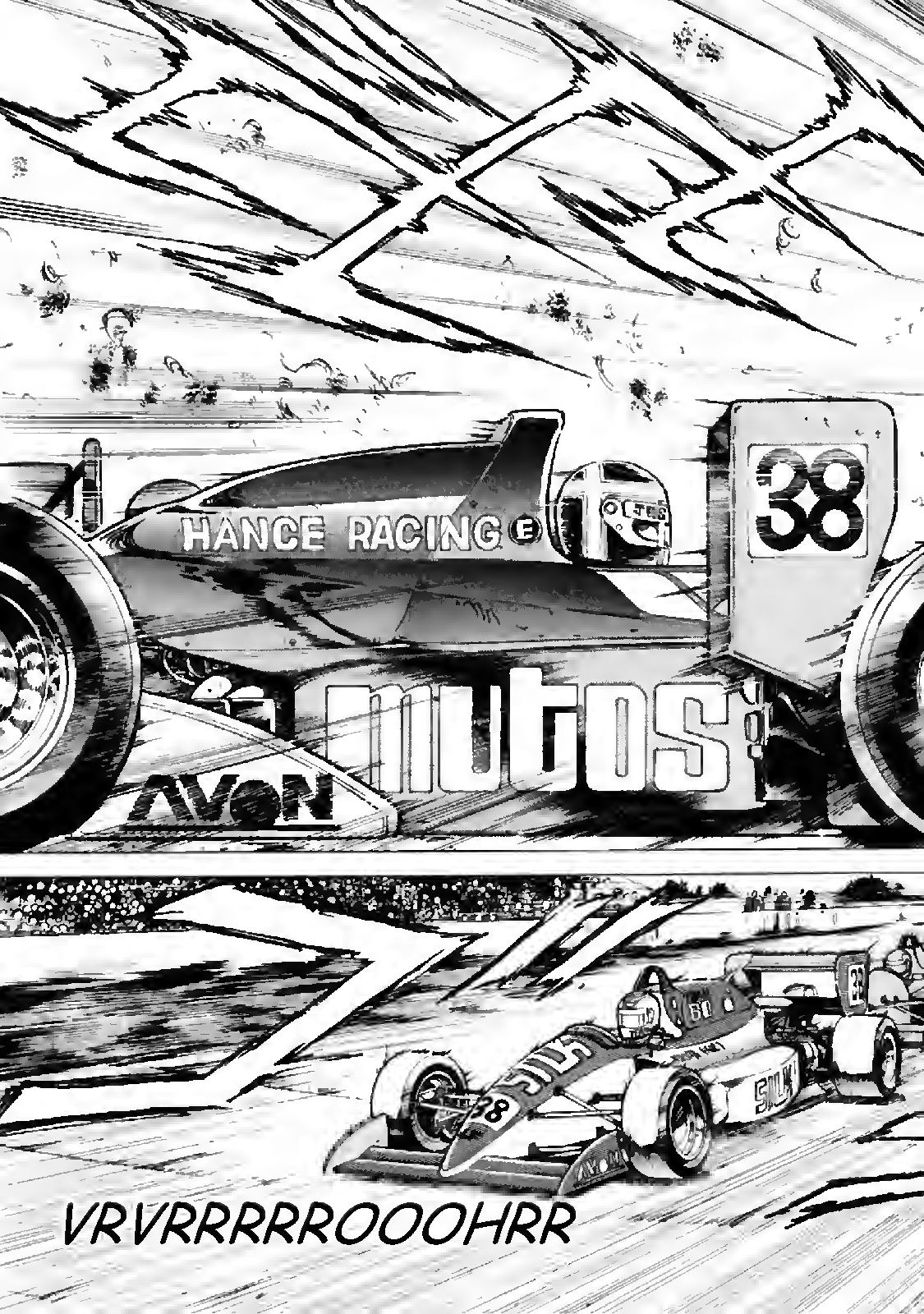


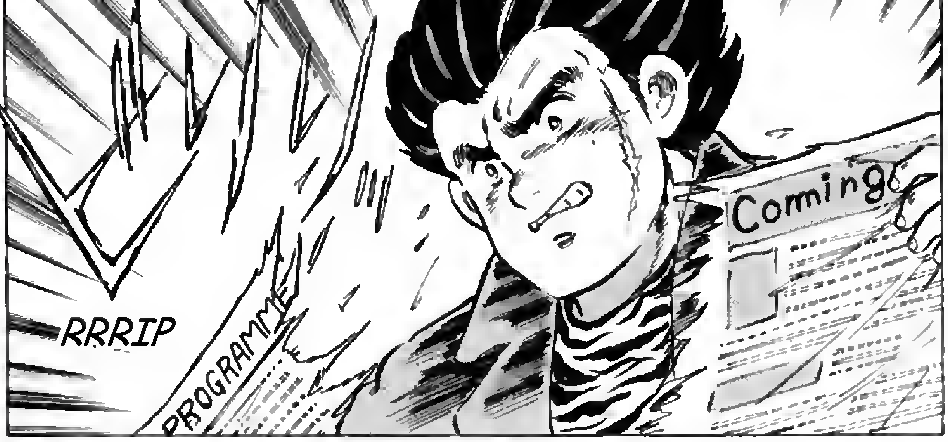

VROOOOM
We're about to get rolling with the first race of the 1990 International F3000 Championship series!
VRRRNN
VRRRRR
VROOOH
SILK
38

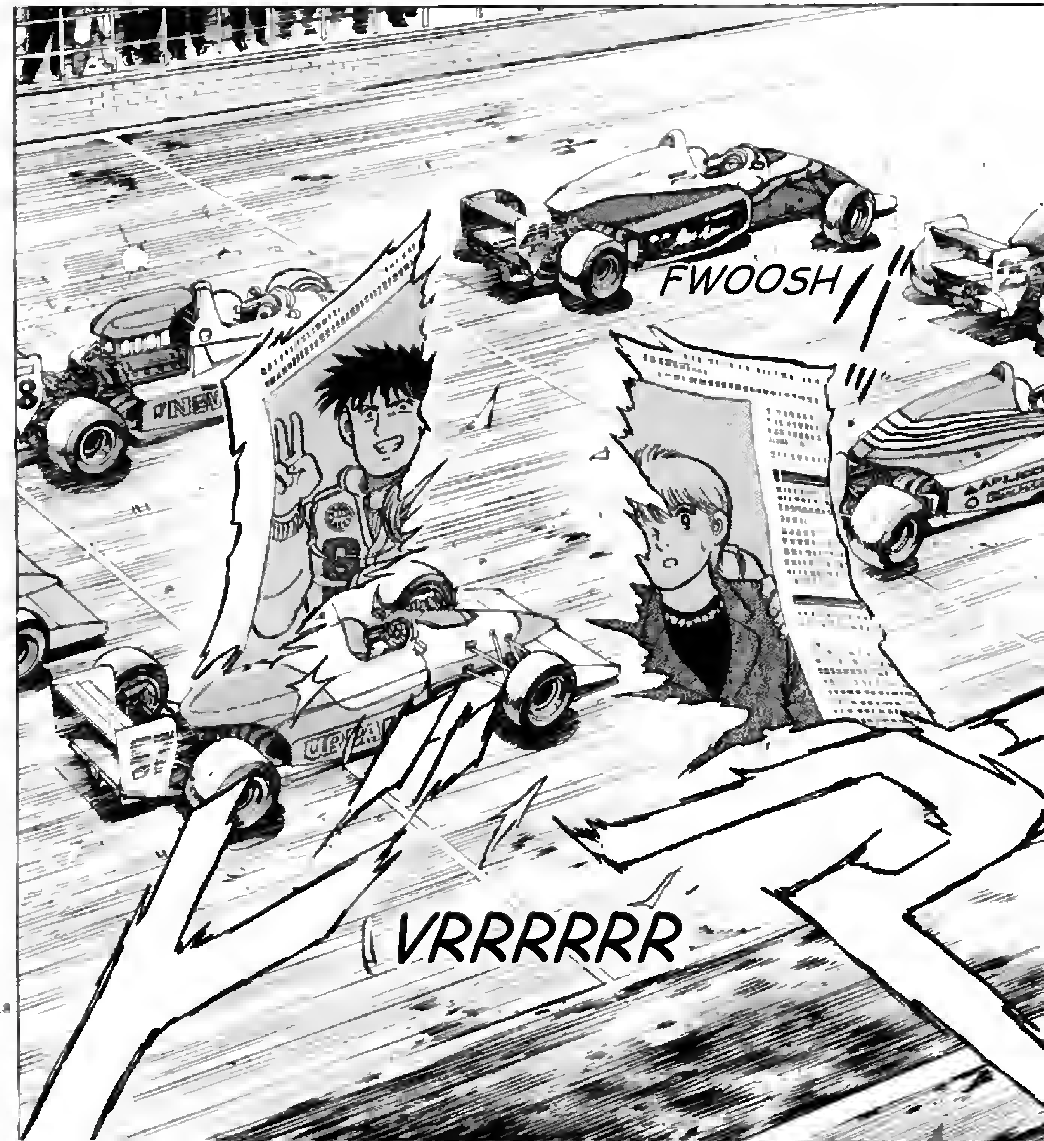

VROOOOOH
VROOOOOH
VROOOOOH
CLICK
It's 15 degrees out today...
The red lights are on!
...and the track is dry.
VRRRRRRRRRR
CLICK
And they're off!


BREEHHHHHH
HANCE RACING
38
TEAM
BO
GUNNA AKAGI
mutos
SILK
AVON
VRVRRRROOOHRR

BREEHHHHHH
TEAM
BO
GUNMA AKAGI
SILK
40

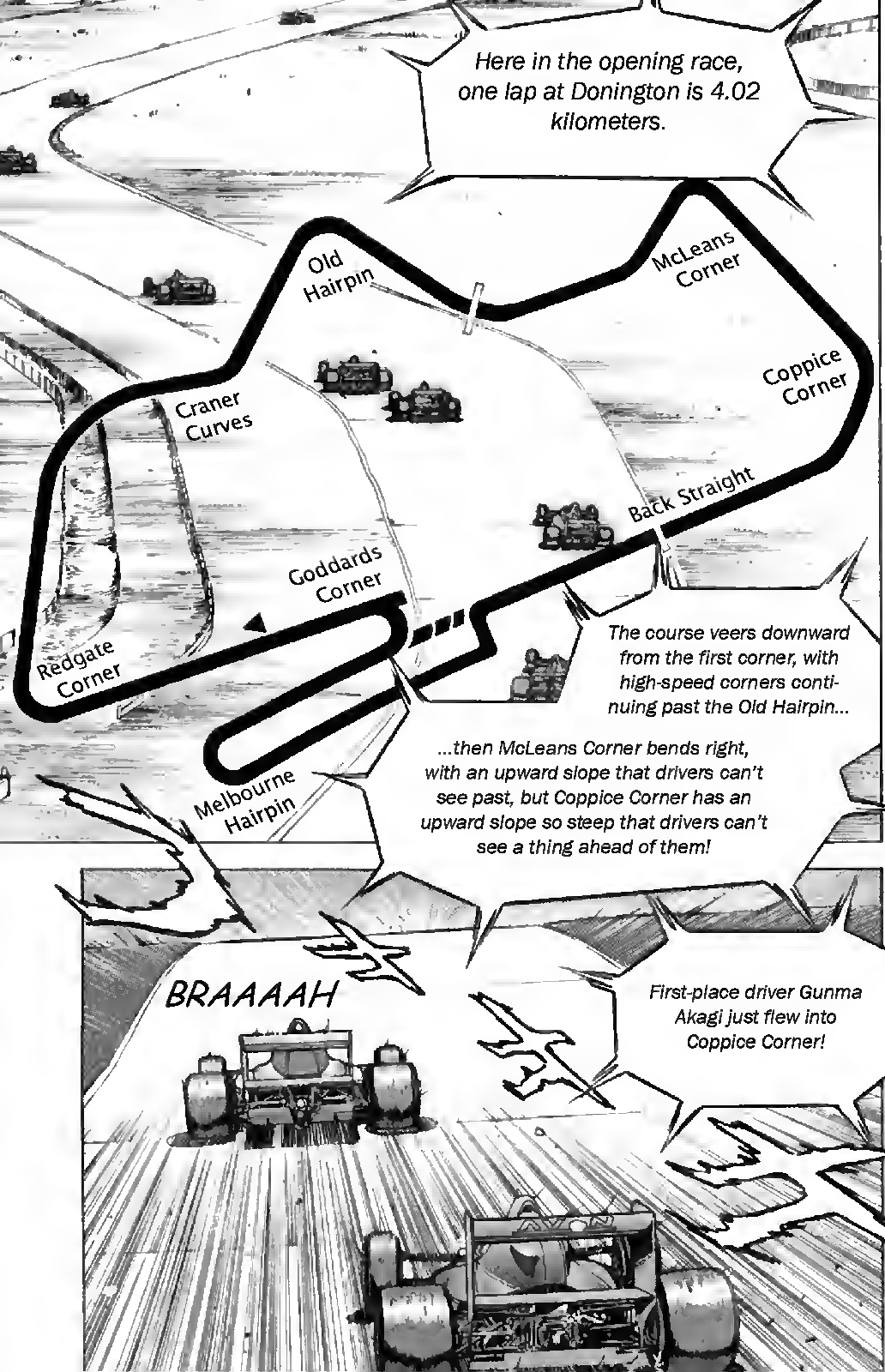

HANCE RACING
38
mutos
AVON
VRVRRRROOOHRR

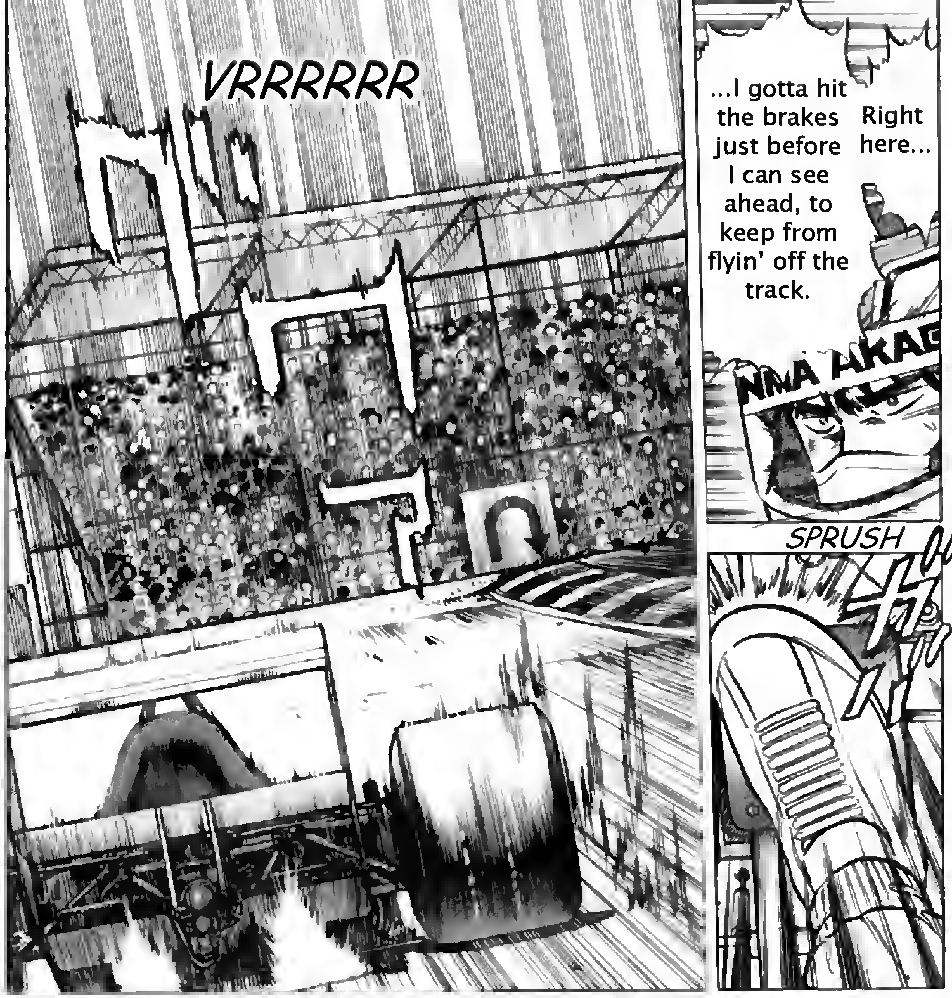

RRRIP
PROGRAMME
Coming

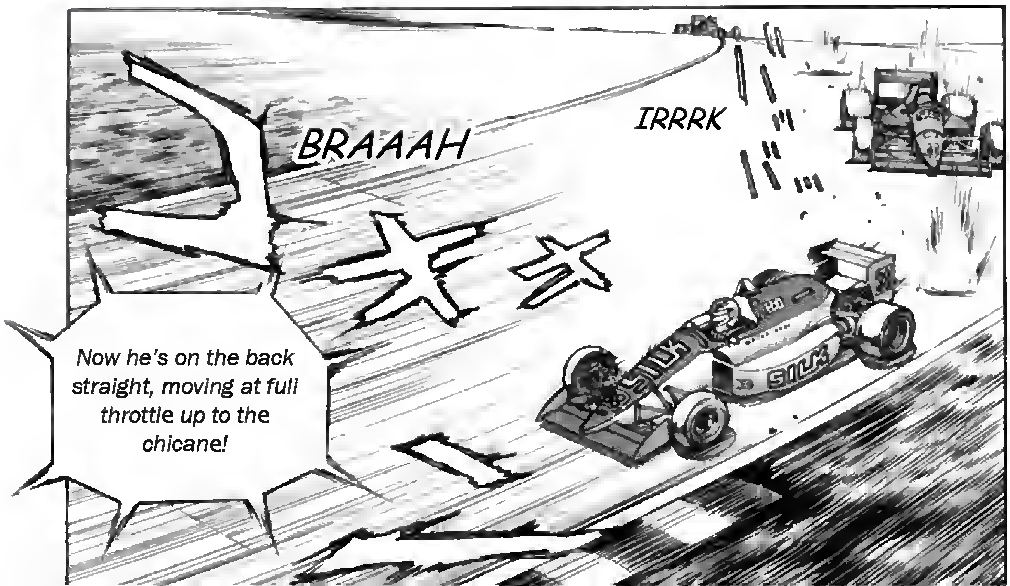

FWOOSH
VRRRRRR

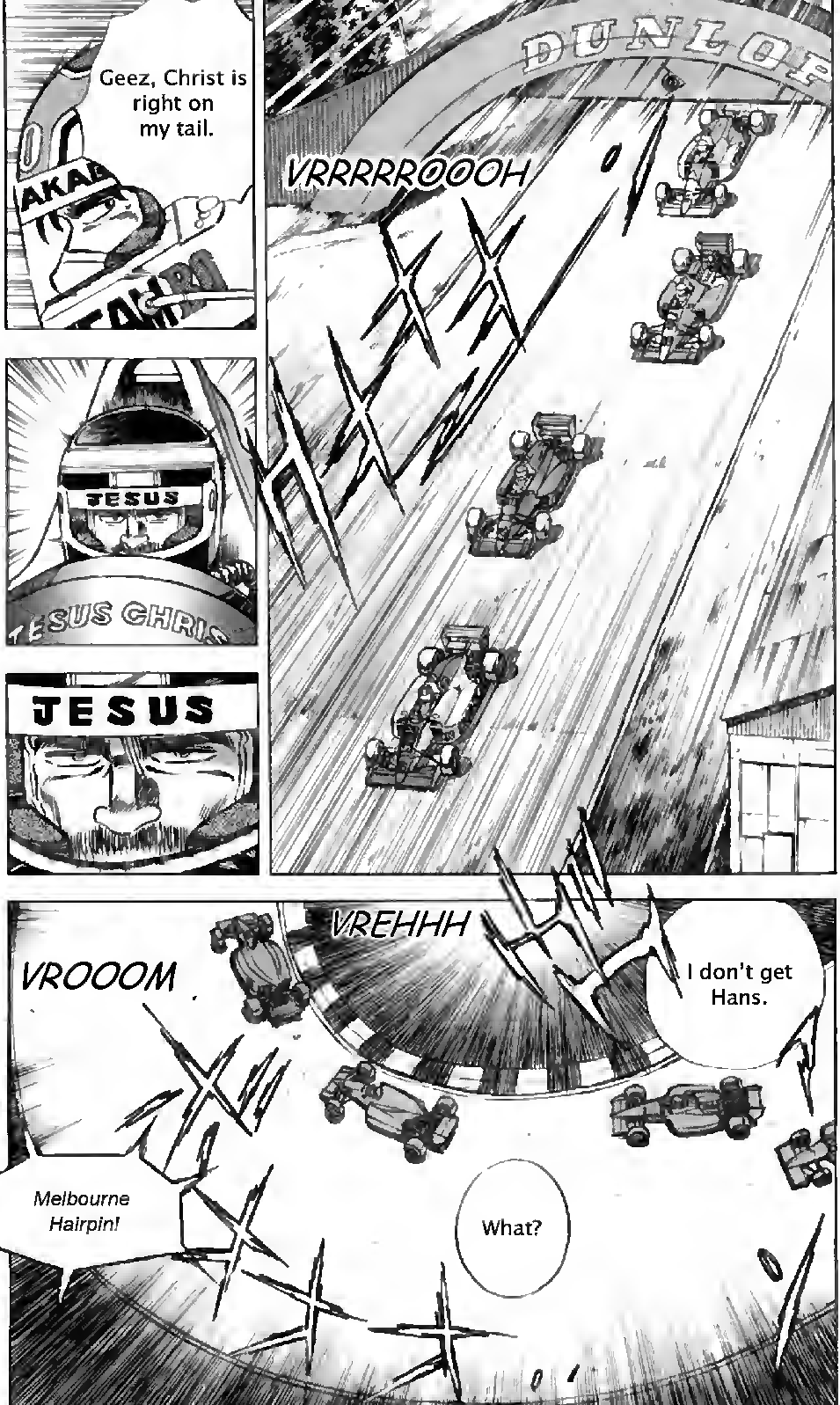
Chapter 10: Targeted
Yup, I can hear you loud and clear.
KSSHH
Come in, Gunma. Is your ear piece working?
BEEP
Then go pick up your first customer, Taxi 38!
BEEP
Ha ha ha... A taxi, huh?
GSSHHH
Feels like some kinda taxi radio though.
Quicker than anyone else, got that?
And he's a good tipper, so you better snatch him up quick.
KSSHH
He's an old man 49 laps from here, holding up a bright checkered flag.
BEEP
You bet! Taxi 38, over and out!
AKAGI
TEAM BO

Chapter 10: Targeted


Here in the opening race, one lap at Donington is 4.02 kilometers.
Old Hairpin
McLeans Corner
Coppice Corner
Craner Curves
Back Straight
Goddards Corner
Redgate Corner
Melbourne Hairpin
The course veers downward from the first corner, with high-speed corners continuing past the Old Hairpin...
...then McLeans Corner bends right, with an upward slope that drivers can't see past, but Coppice Corner has an upward slope so steep that drivers can't see a thing ahead of them!
BRAAAAH
First-place driver Gunma Akagi just flew into Coppice Corner!


VRRRRRR
...I gotta hit the brakes just before I can see ahead, to keep from flyin' off the track.
Right here...
SPRUSH

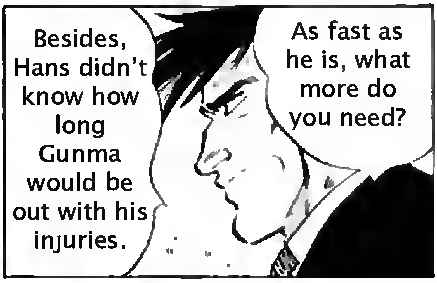

BRAAAH
IRRRK
Now he's on the back straight, moving at full throttle up to the chicane!


Geez, Christ is right on my tail.
AKAB
DUNLOP
VRRRRROOOH
JESUS
JESUS
VREHHH
VROOOM
I don't get Hans.
Melbourne Hairpin!
What?

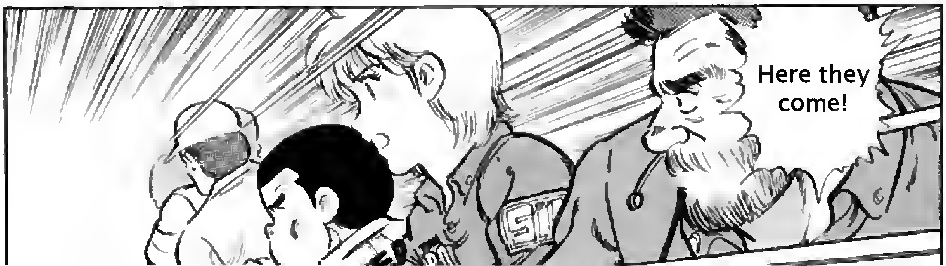
Well, he is fast.
Why he snatched up Jesus like that.
What don't you get?

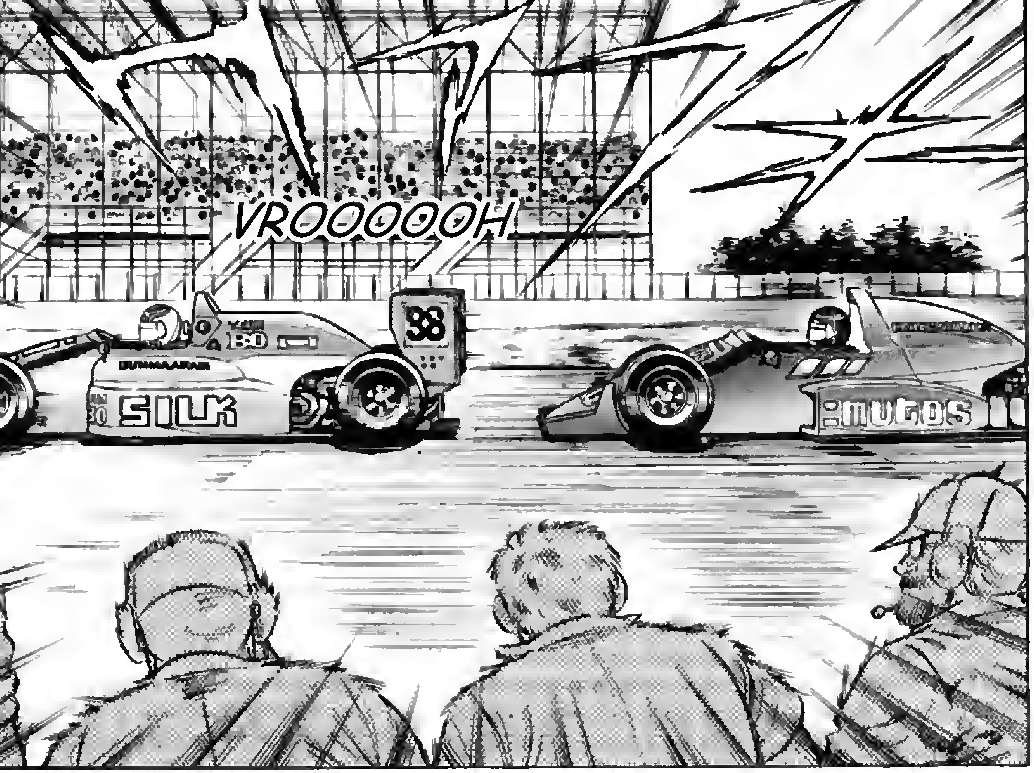
What are you talking about?
Is that enough to kick out Gunma to take Jesus in his place?
Damn fast.
But that's all, as far as I can see.

Jesus must have something special.
Hans and I are close friends.
And this doesn't make sense.

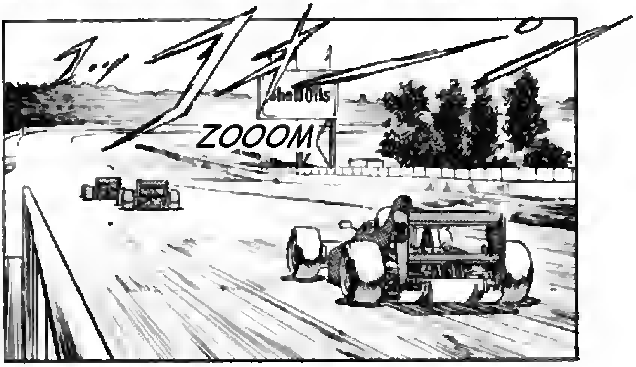

Besides, Hans didn't know how long Gunma would be out with his injuries.
As fast as he is, what more do you need?

Something other than speed.
Like what?


Here they come!

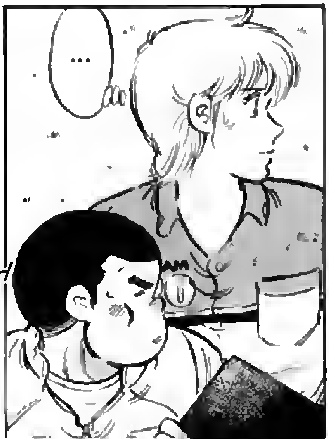

VROOOOOH
38
SILK

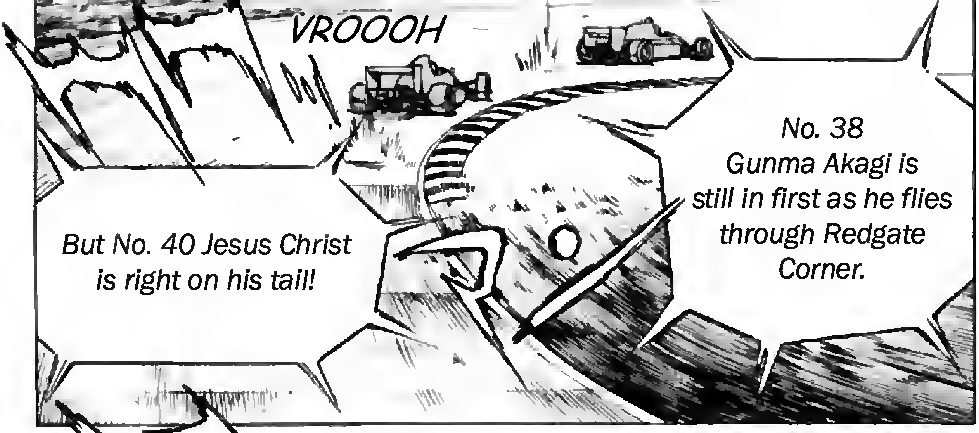
...let's figure out what's so "special" about him.
Then ...

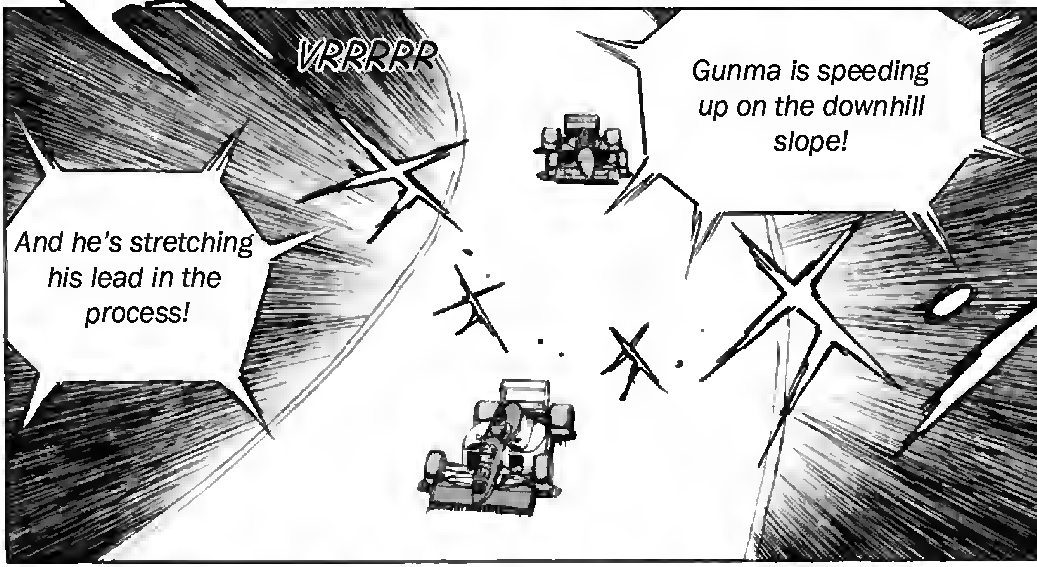

ZOOOM

Roger that!

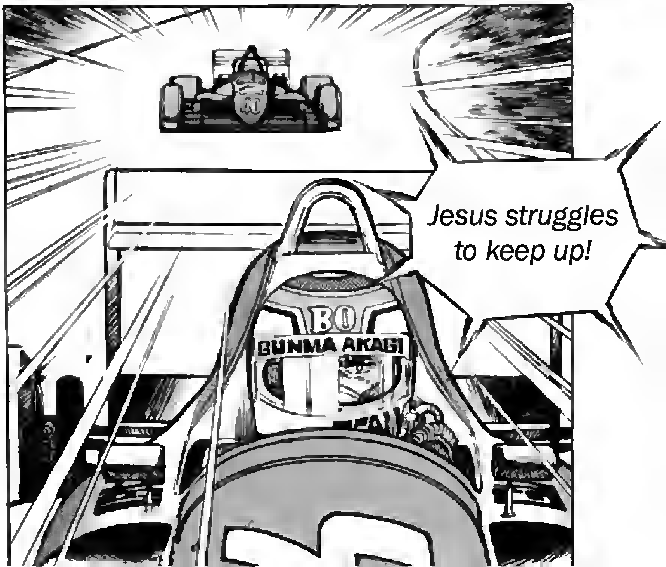
!
BEEP
I'm gonna pull away.
KSHHH


...

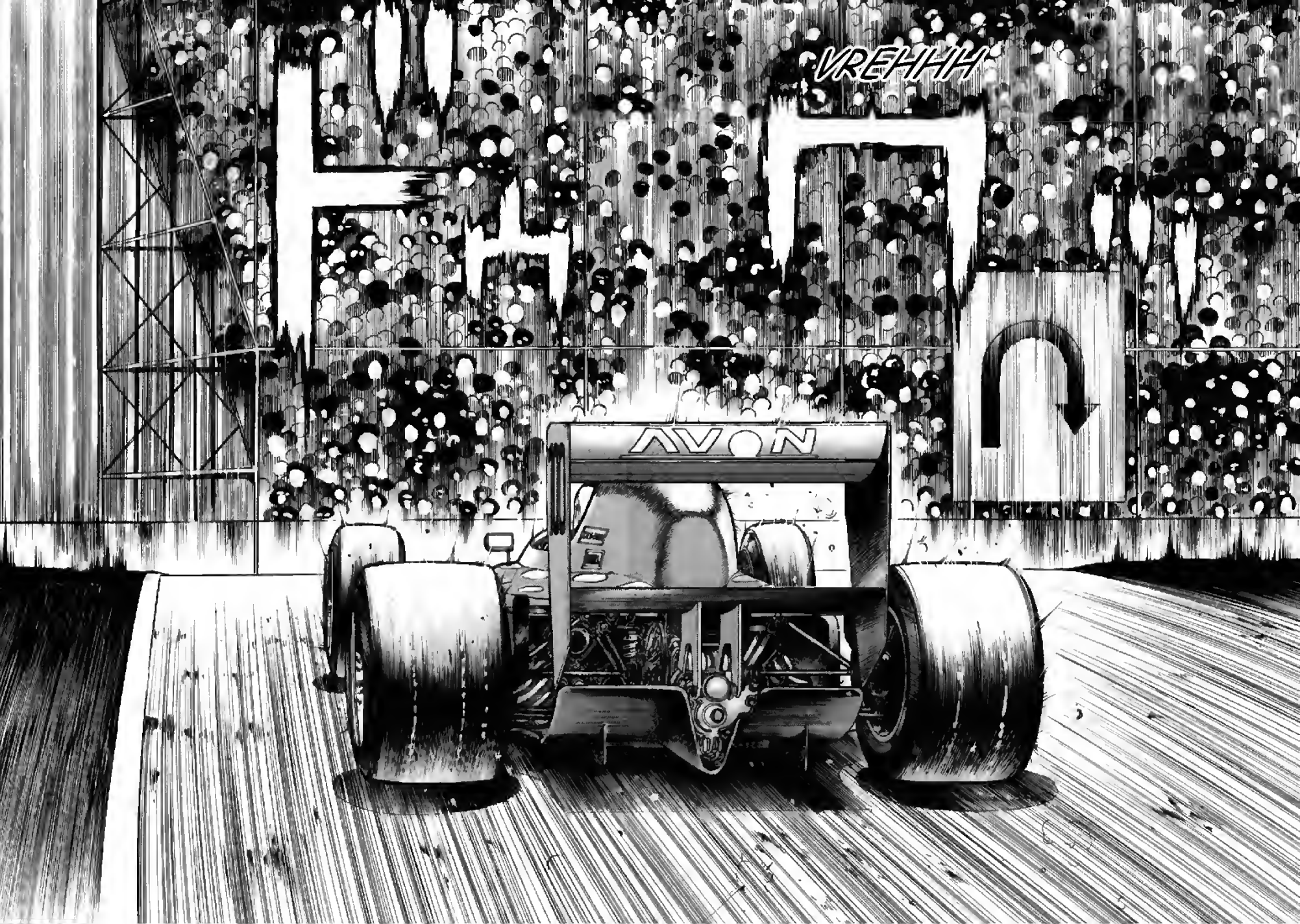

VROOOH
No. 38 Gunma Akagi is still in first as he flies through Redgate Corner.
But No. 40 Jesus Christ is right on his tail!


VRRRRR
Gunma is speeding up on the downhill slope!
And he's stretching his lead in the process!

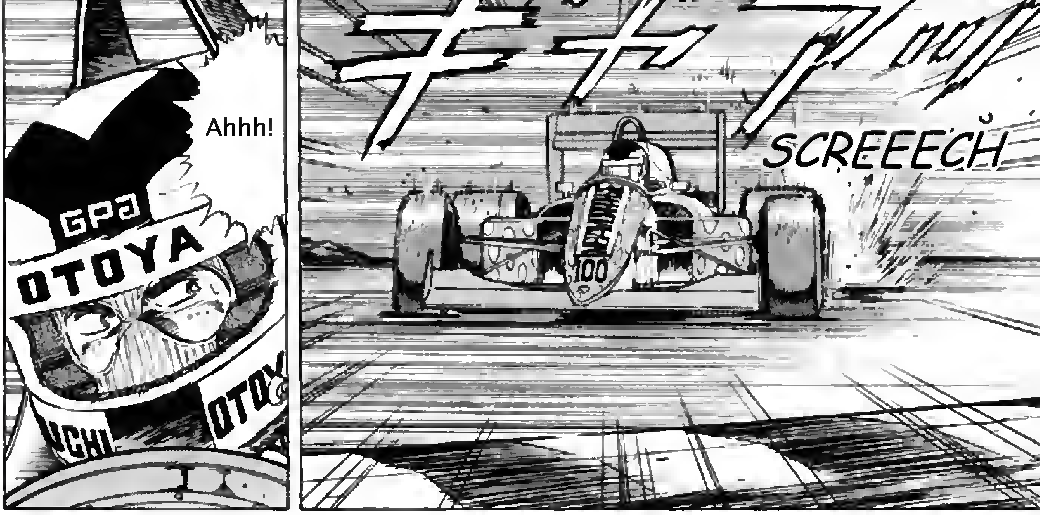
WOOHOO

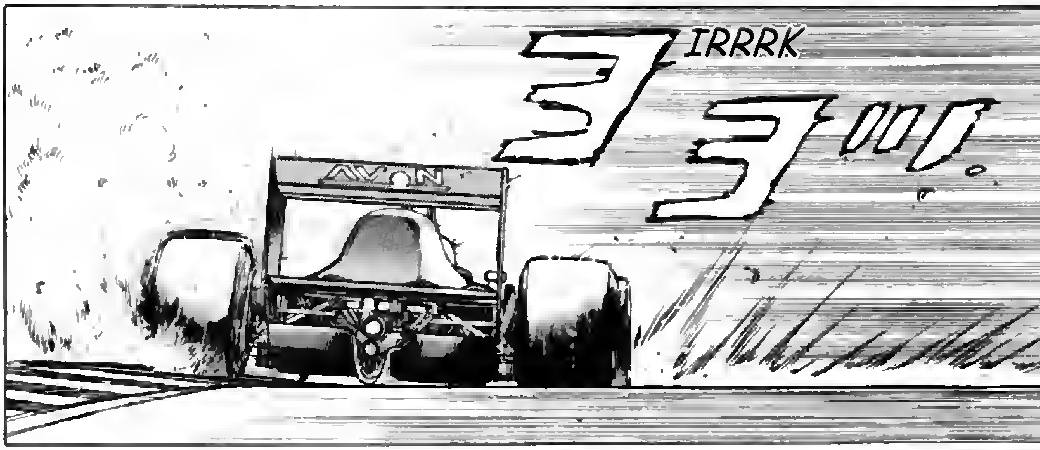

Jesus struggles to keep up!
GUNMA AKAGI

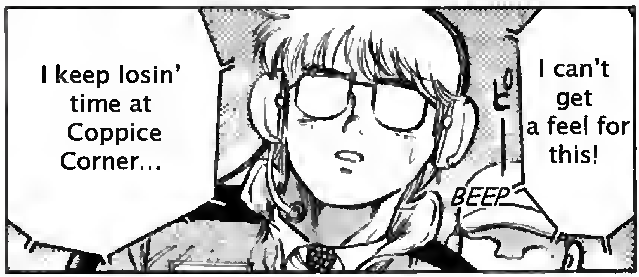
Then why is he doing so well!?
He knows. I made it clear at that party.
He's a damn good driver.
I guess he don't know we're plannin' to kill him.
Or maybe he thinks we can't make a move while he's racing.
He just thinks we're a bunch of stupid kids and he's mocking us!
I dunno. Maybe it doesn't faze him.
How do you wanna handle this, Peabow? You wanna watch this guy dominate from pole to finish?
Let's make our move.
No need to rush, the race just started.
Just watch. Once Gunma catches on to what we're doing, he'll freeze up like an ice cube.


VREHHH
AVON

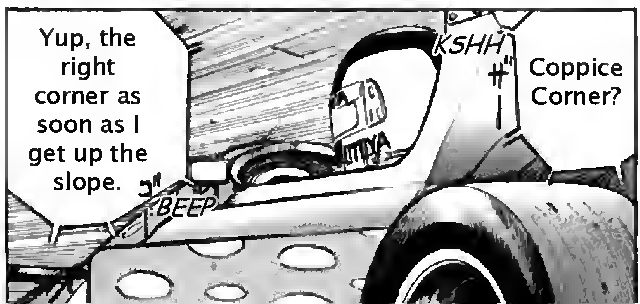
VREHHH
AVON


Ahhh!
GPJ
OTOYA
SCREEECH
100


IRRRK
AVON


I keep losin' time at Coppice Corner...
I can't get a feel for this!
BEEP

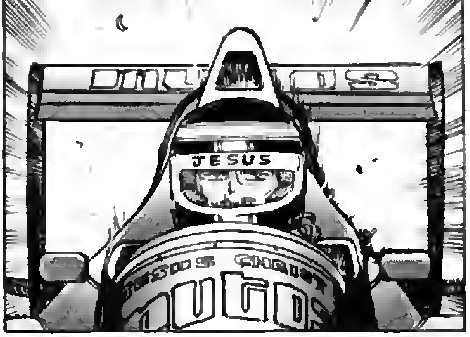
KSHH
Your time's not improving, Otoya.
Dam-mit.
OTOYA

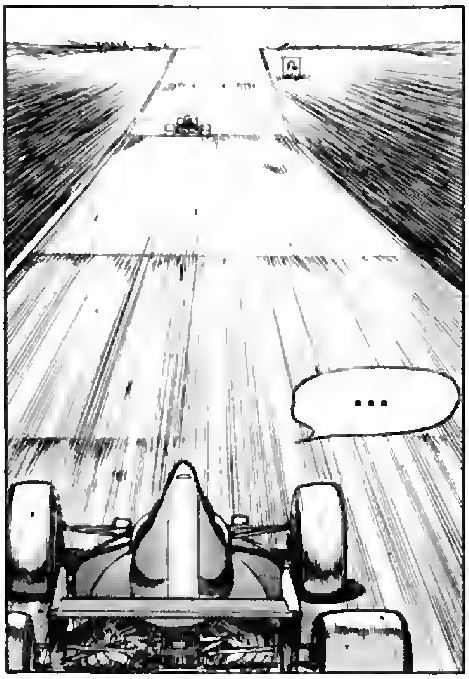

Yup, the right corner as soon as I get up the slope.
BEEP
KSHH
Coppice Corner?

BEEP
If I'm just a split second late...
...I'll crash into the stands!
Can't find the braking point!
KSHH
METAMORPHOSE
I can't see nothin' ahead of me.
GSSHHH
The Grand Prix doesn't end at Donington!
BEEP
Don't overdo it, Otoya!
FSSSHHH
BSHOOOH
BREHHHHH

Heh heh, we've got the perfect seats.
He took a right at the curve as soon as we saw his car!
ZOOM
Whoa, he's killing it out there!
We'll wait for Gunma, right here.
It's not that hot.
And condi-tions are great.
No prob-lem.
And the track's heating up.
The sun's out.
Lucas
Unless he's aiming a gun at him from the stands.
...there's nothing he can do.
But even if he is...
No idea.
Hey Mr. Kuroi, you think Peabow's here?

ZOOM
Gunma has a comfortable lead on the 14th lap.
LOP
Shell Oils
Shell Oils
Shell Oils
Shell Oils
Second-place Jesus is beginning to lose some distance, about 3 seconds from Gunma now.
He's either running out of steam, or he's waiting to make his move for some reason.
Hard to say.
What do you think? Is Jesus surveying the situation?
First-place Gunma Akagi just made it through McLeans Corner, and he's gaining speed!
BRAAAH
Yeah, maybe it's nothing.
Getting three seconds behind is too much to be surveying the situation!


JESUS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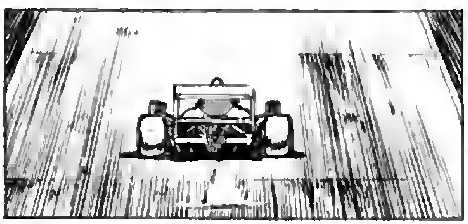
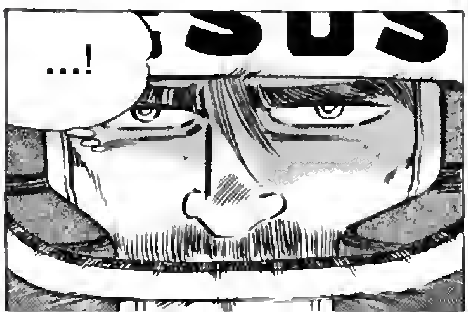
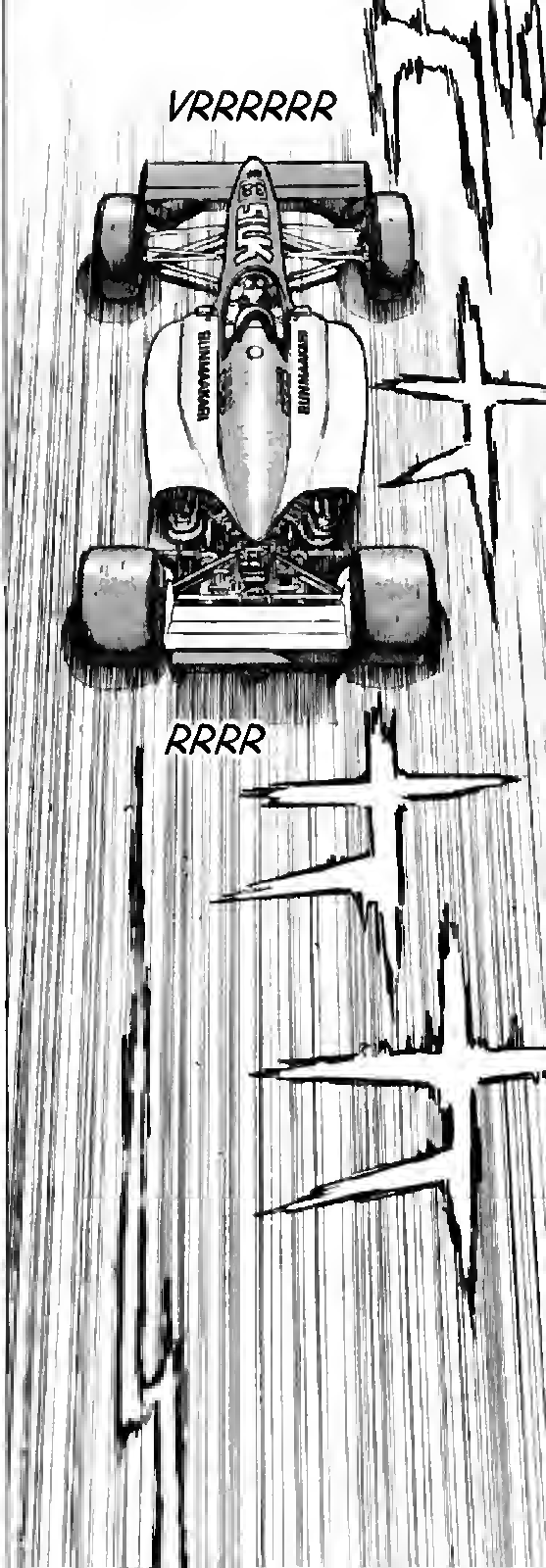
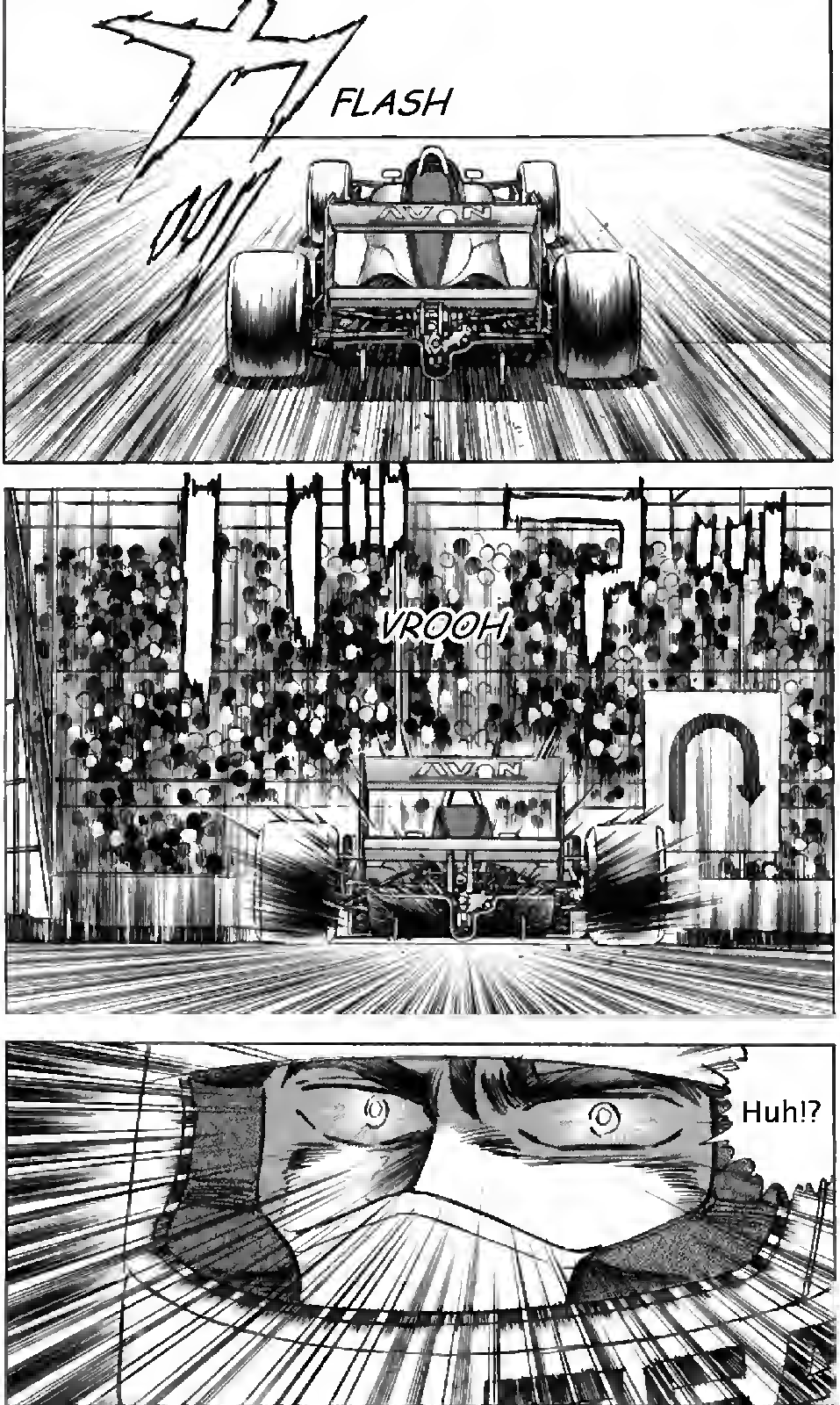
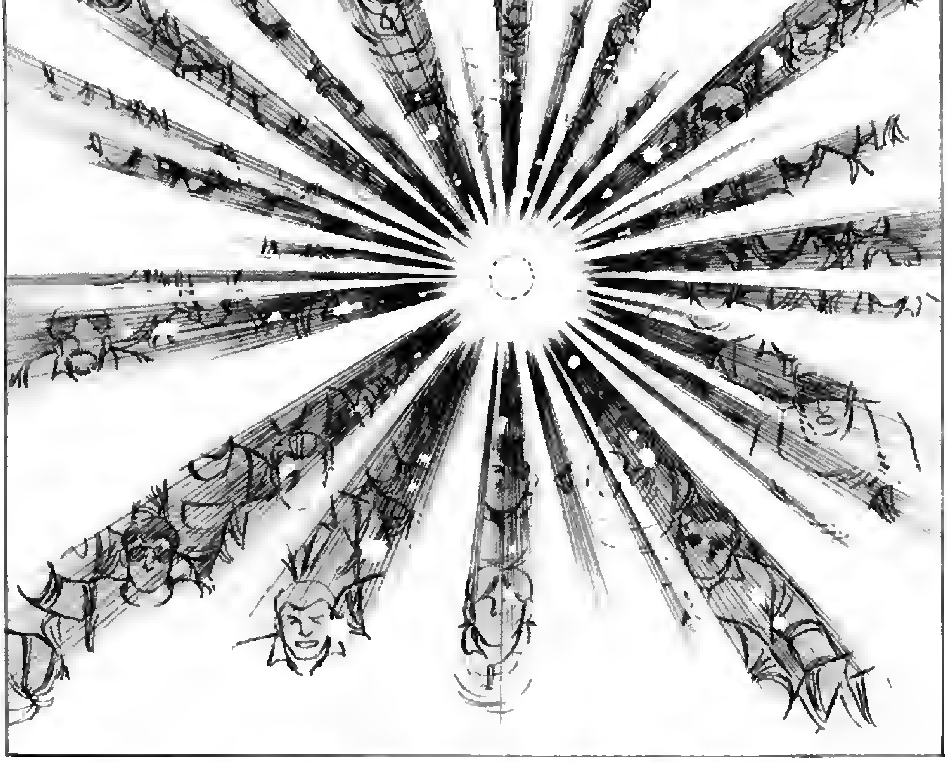
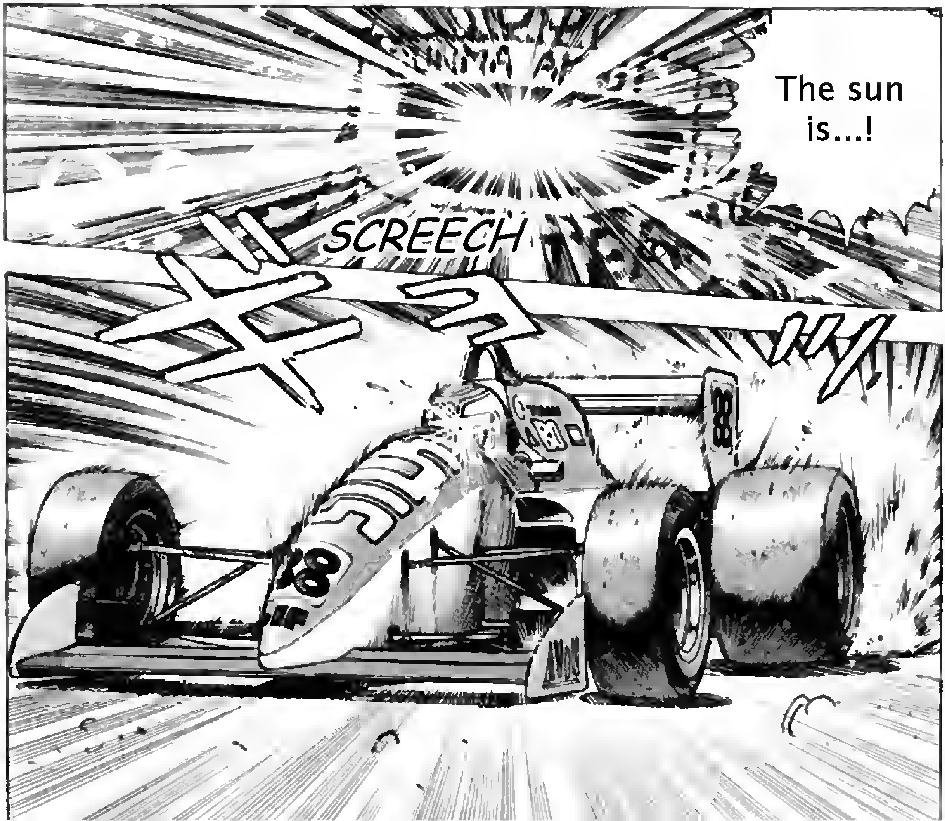



...!


VRRRRRR
RRRR

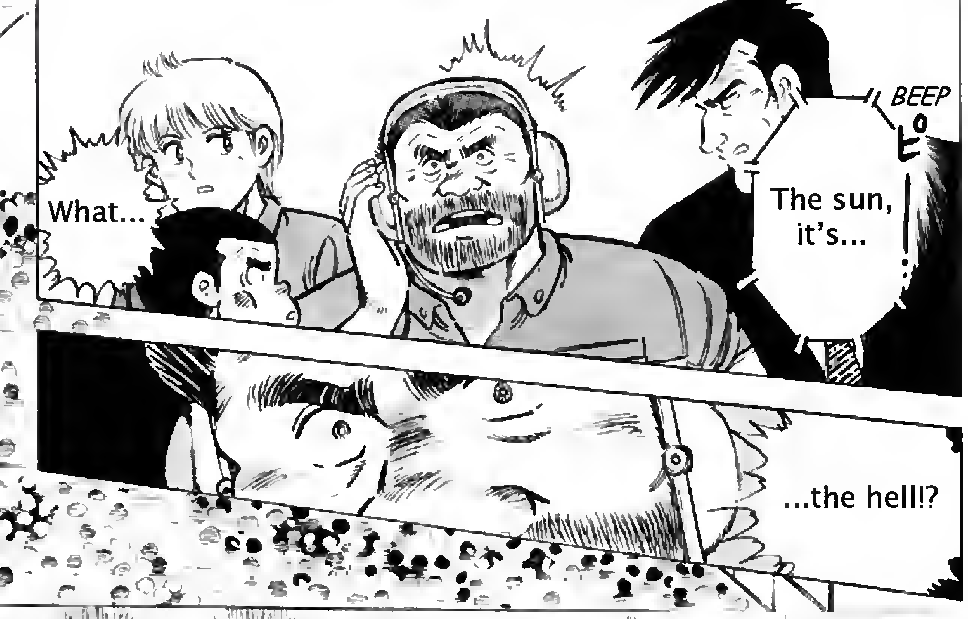

FLASH
VROOH
AVON
Huh!?



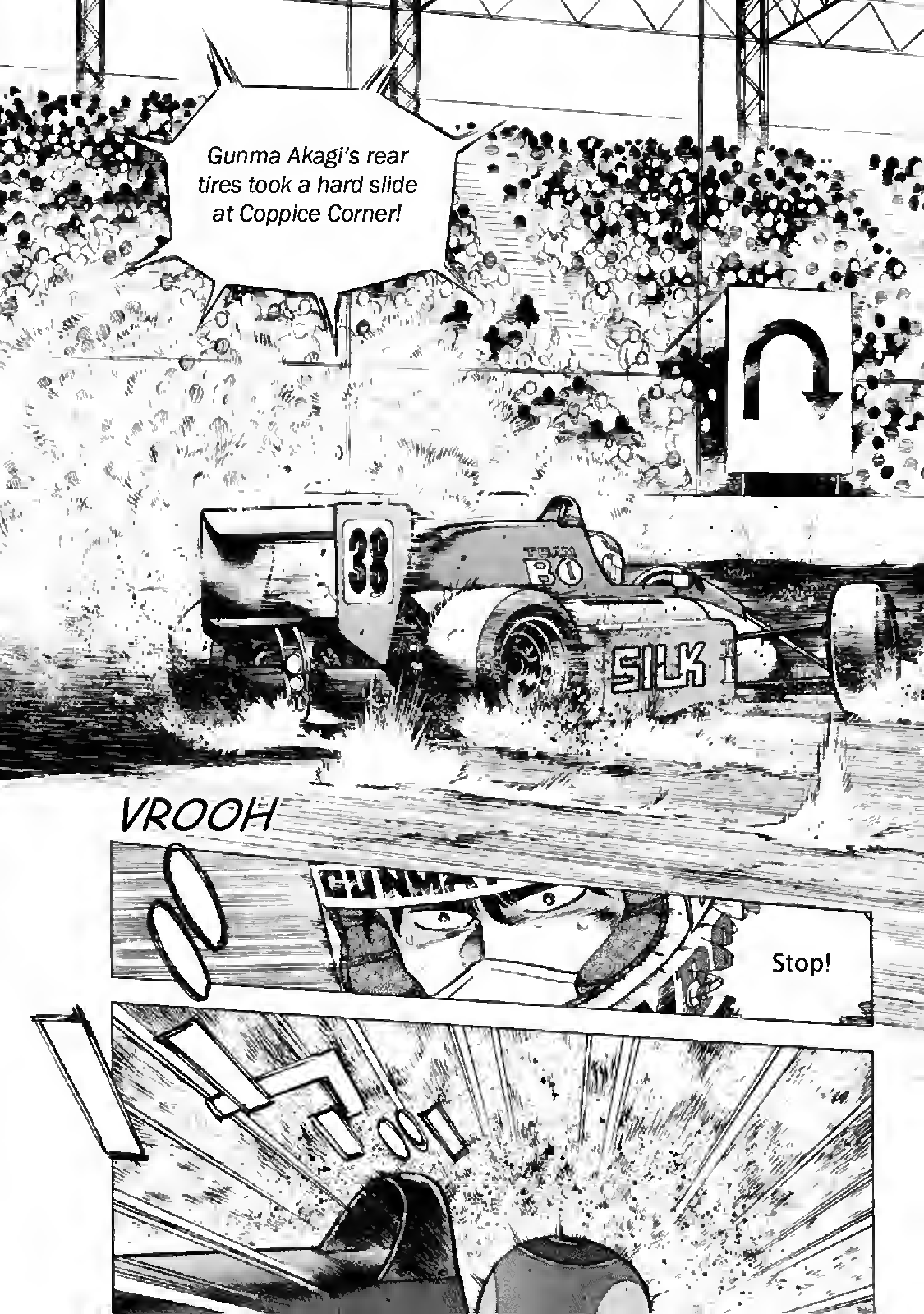

The sun is...!
SCREECH
88

Chapter 11:
Hoodlum Sun
SCREEEECH
38
TEAM
BO
SILK

Chapter 11: Hoodlum Sun

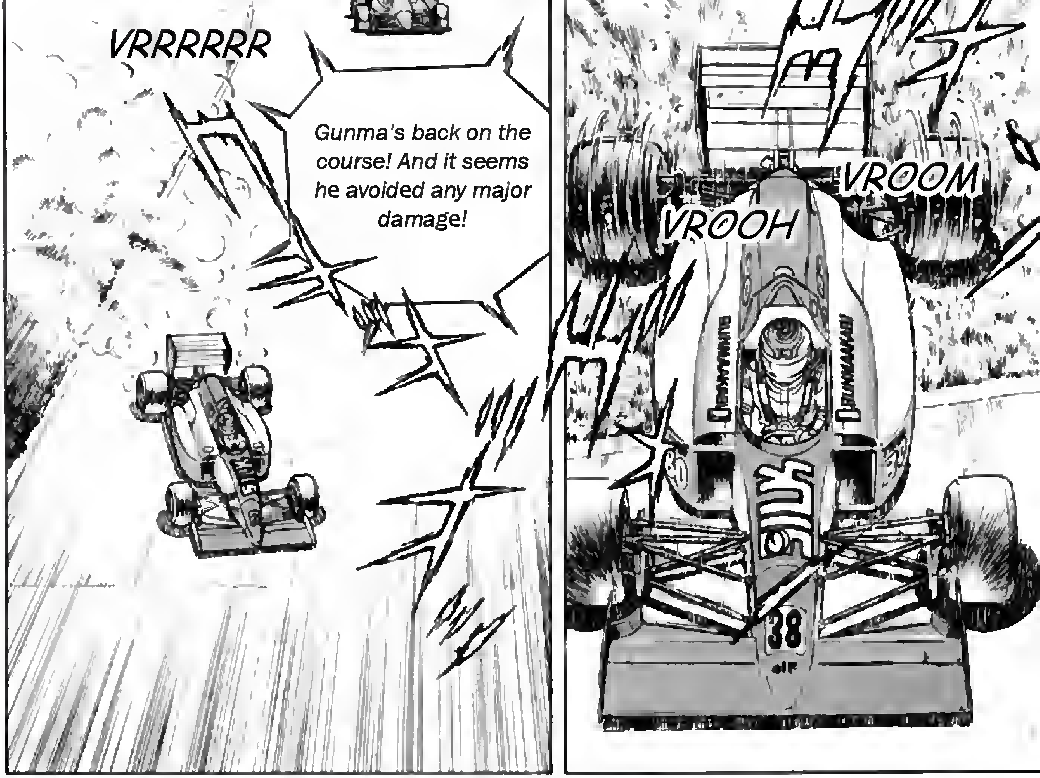


Chapter 11: Hoodlum Sun


Gunma Akagi's rear tires took a hard slide at Coppice Corner!
38
TEAM
SILK
VROOH
Stop!

My goodness!
SSSHHH
A hard recoil has thrown him off the track!
He's spinning off the course now!
KIRRRRRR
VROOOOOH

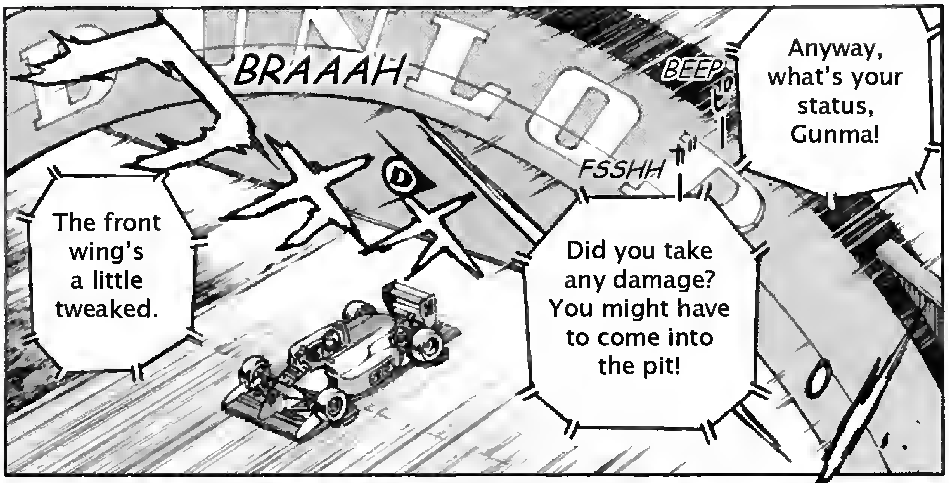
BREHHHHH
Look at this, folks...
Jesus manages to stay clear of Gunma's accident and moves into the top spot!
Staying on Gunma's tail would surely have gotten Jesus involved in that accident too!
AKAGI
What remarkable luck! Being three seconds behind Gunma actually helped Jesus avoid the accident and move ahead!
It's the sun...
GSSHHH
What happened, Gunma!? You okay!?
What!?
...from the stands.
GSSHHH
AKAGI
The sun came at me...
BEEP
TEAM RO

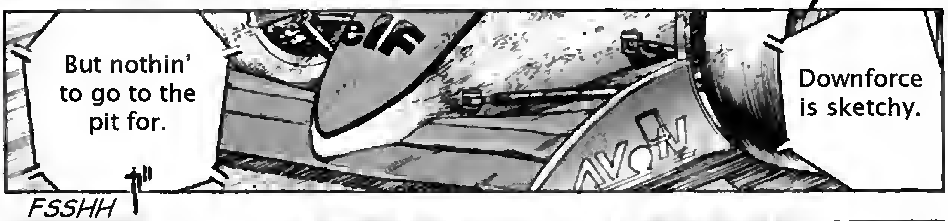

VRRRRRR
Gunma's back on the course! And it seems he avoided any major damage!
VROOM
VROOH
38

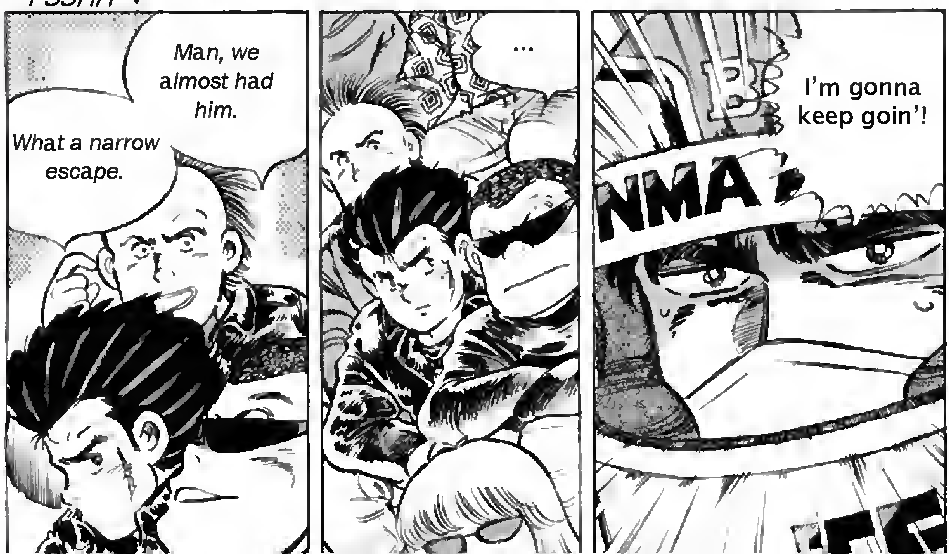
UNMA AK
I dunno.
BEEP!
What do you mean by the sun, Gunma!?

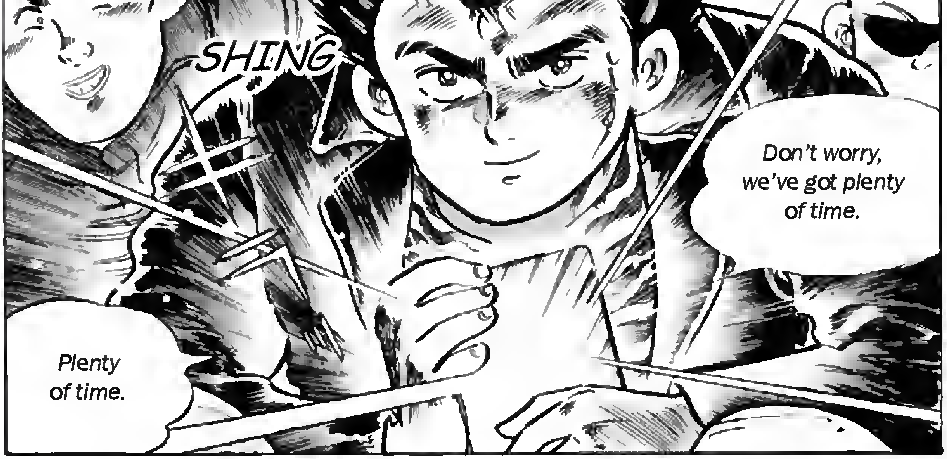
What could that be?
I'm not sure.
A bright light?
VROOOOH
A bright light came from the crowd.

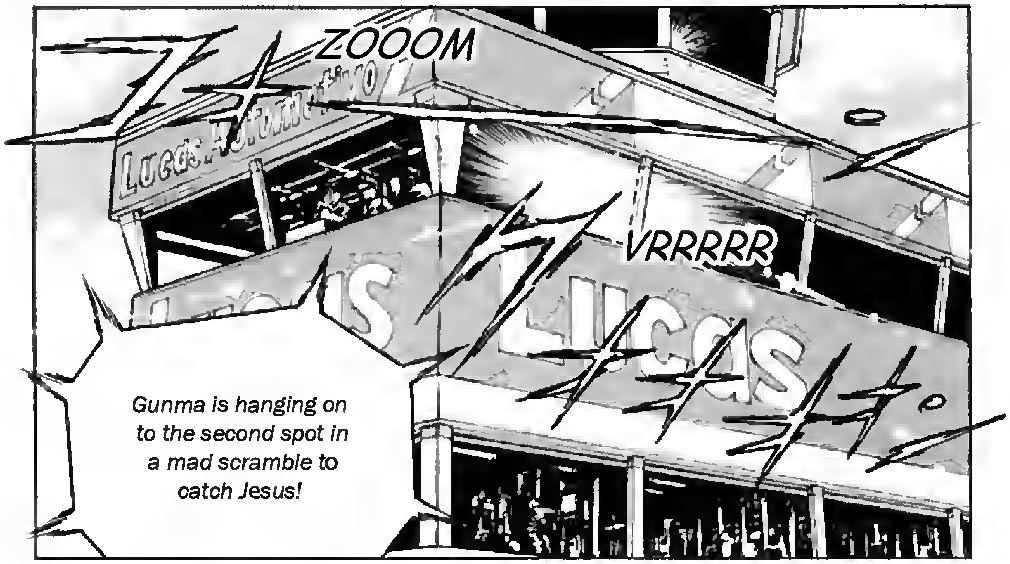
...Peabow out there somewhere?
Could it be...

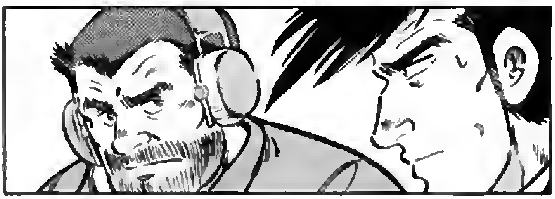

BRAAAH
BEEP
FSSHH
Anyway, what's your status, Gunma!
The front wing's a little tweaked.
Did you take any damage? You might have to come into the pit!


But nothin' to go to the pit for.
Downforce is sketchy.


FSSHH
Man, we almost had him.
What a narrow escape.
...
I'm gonna keep goin'!


SHING
Don't worry, we've got plenty of time.
Plenty of time.

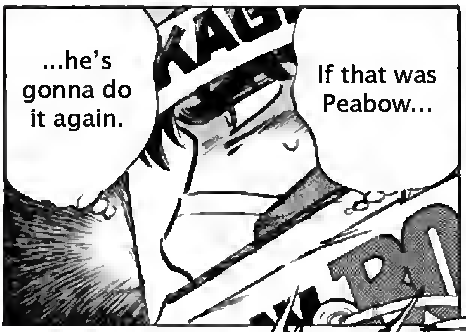

ZOOOM
VRRRRR
Gunma is hanging on to the second spot in a mad scramble to catch Jesus!

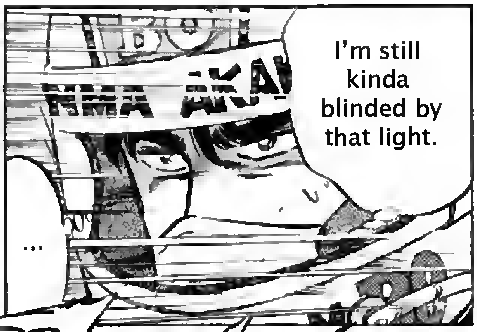


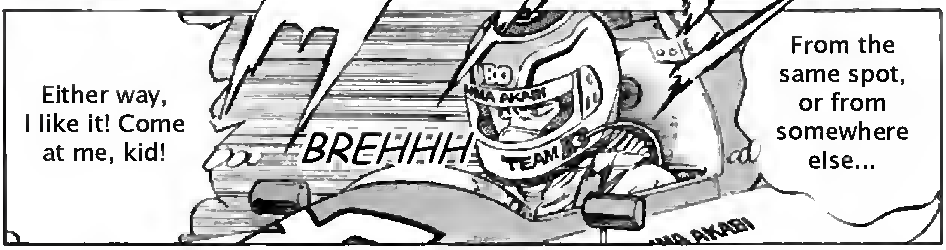
Eh, you're overthin-king it.

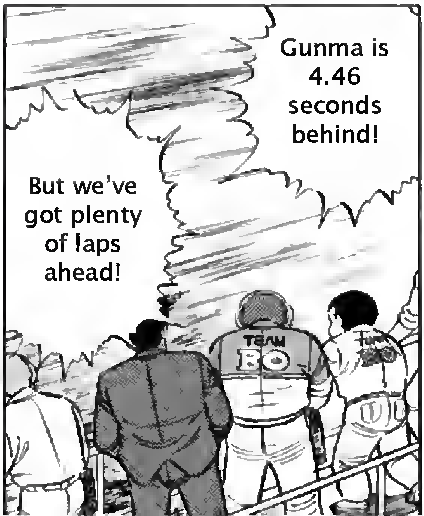
It's almost like he knew Gunma was gonna spin out before it happened.
Jesus is incredibly lucky.

ZOOOOOOM
Shel Oils


...he's gonna do it again.
If that was Peabow...

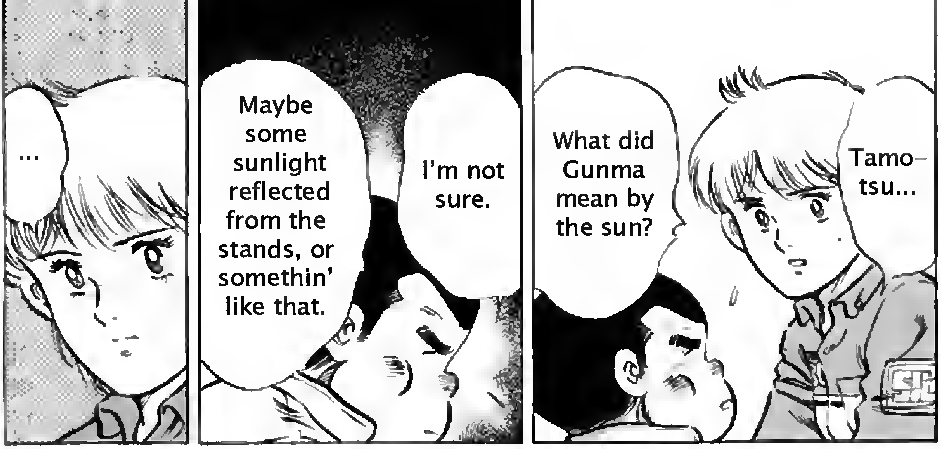

I'm still kinda blinded by that light.
...

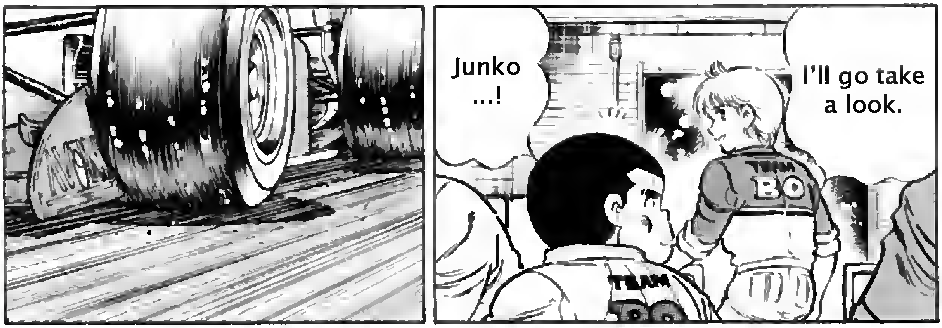

Either way, I like it! Come at me, kid!
BREHHH
From the same spot, or from somewhere else...

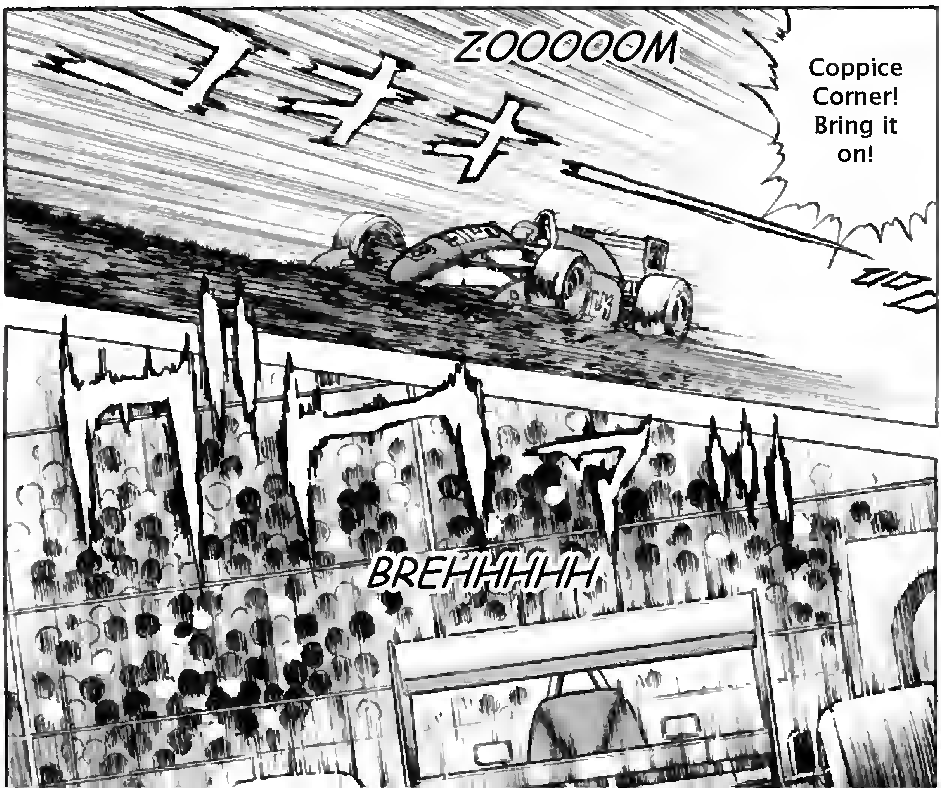

But we've got plenty of laps ahead!
Gunma is 4.46 seconds behind!

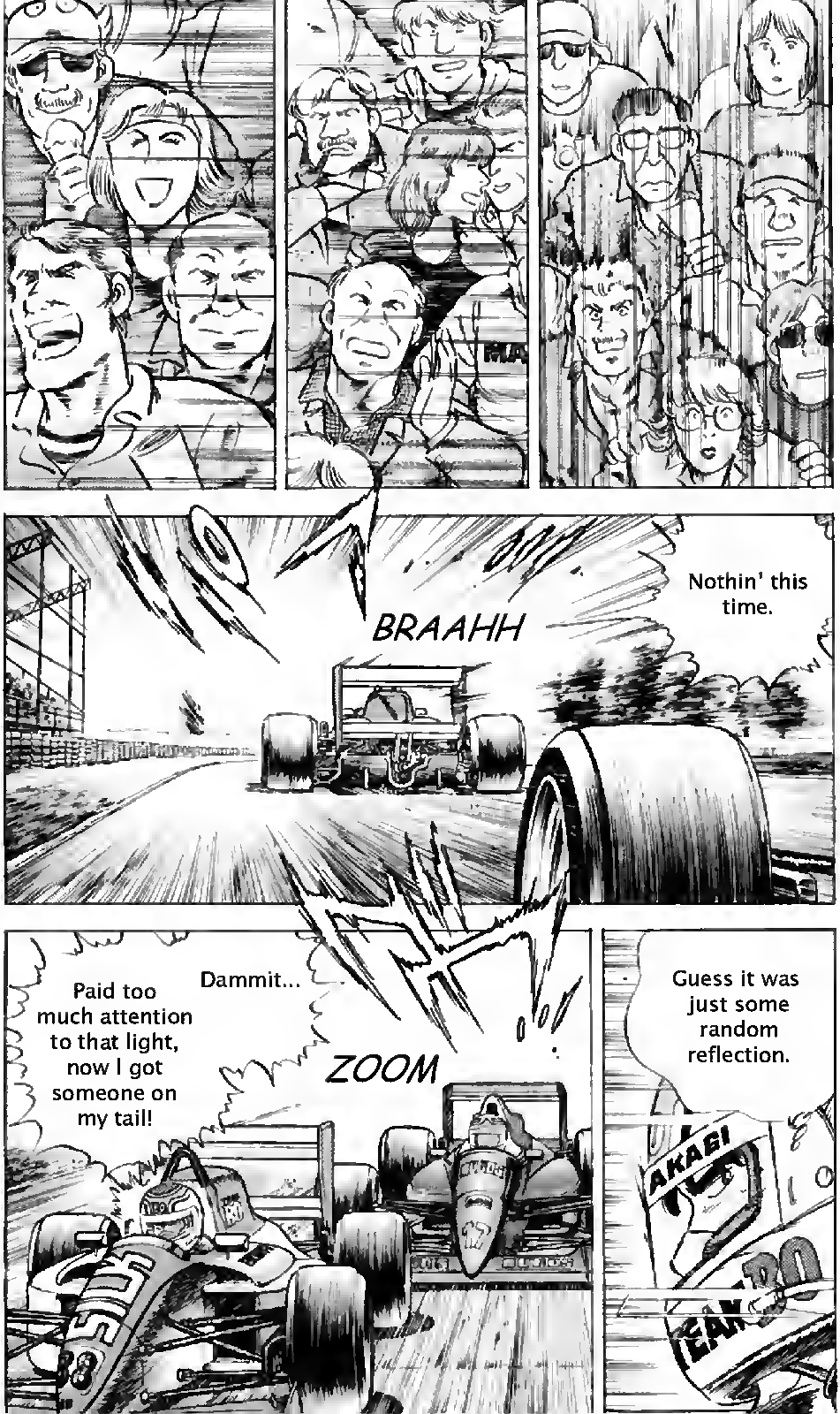
Of course. He hasn't been rough on his tires, or burned much fuel.

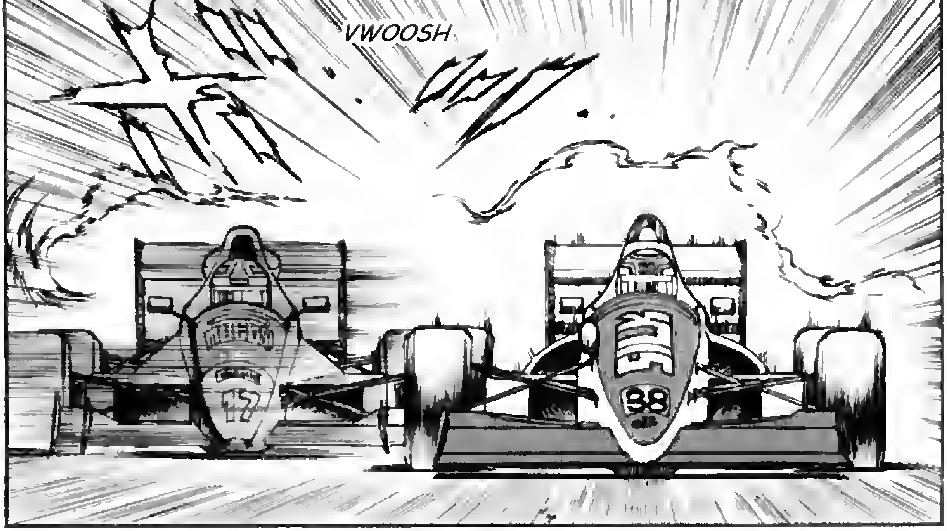
Jesus has really picked up the pace!

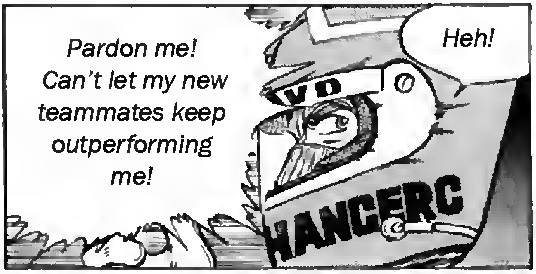

...
Maybe some sunlight reflected from the stands, or somethin' like that.
I'm not sure.
What did Gunma mean by the sun?
Tamo-tsu...


Junko ...!
I'll go take a look.


ZOOOOOM
Coppice Corner! Bring it on!
BREHHHHH

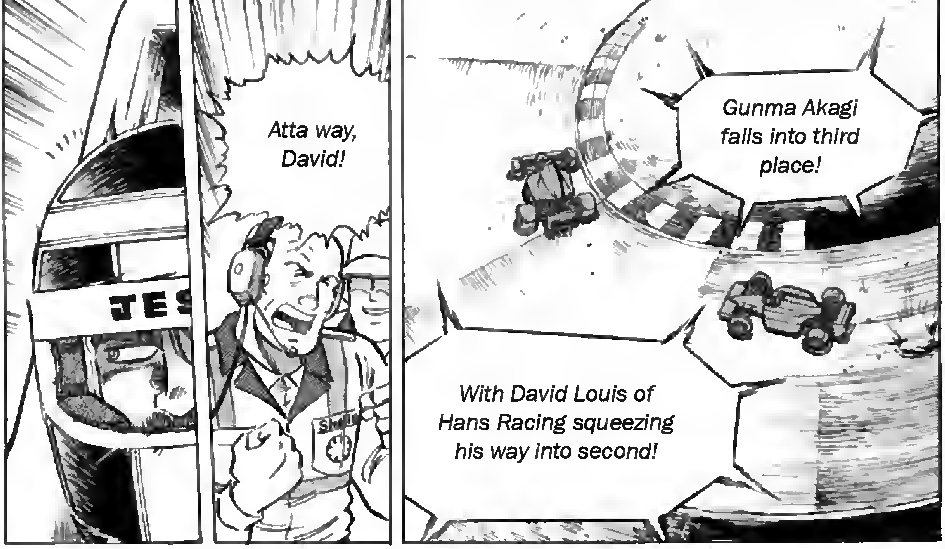

BRAAHH
Nothin' this time.
Dammit...
Paid too much attention to that light, now I got someone on my tail!
ZOOM
Guess it was just some random reflection.
AKAGI


VWOOSH

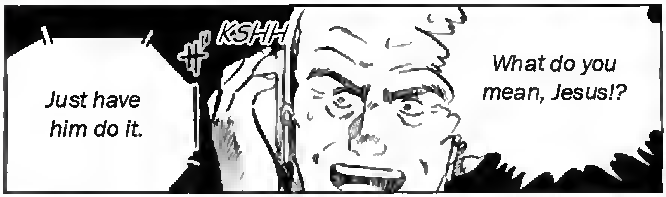

Pardon me! Can't let my new teammates keep outperforming me!
Heh!

It's Davey!

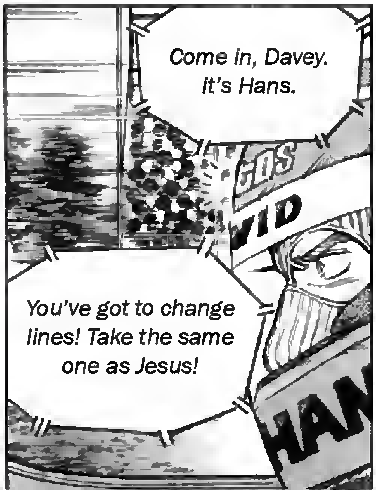
Downforce ain't workin' right.
VROOH
If I take this corner wrong I'll go airborne.
Dam- mit.
Move aside, Jesus! I'm the primary driver!

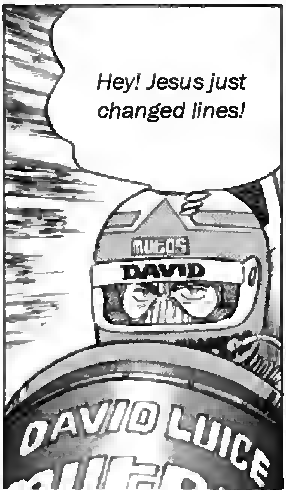

Atta way, David!
Gunma Akagi falls into third place!
With David Louis of Hans Racing squeezing his way into second!

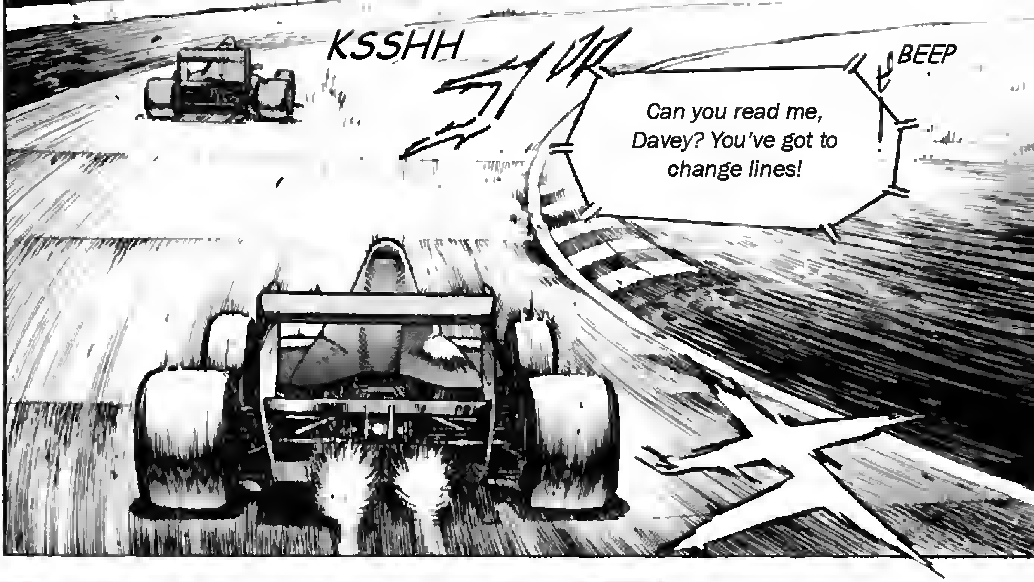
GSSHHH
I can hear you, Jesus! Keep up the great work!
Hans, can you hear me, sir? It's me.
BEEP

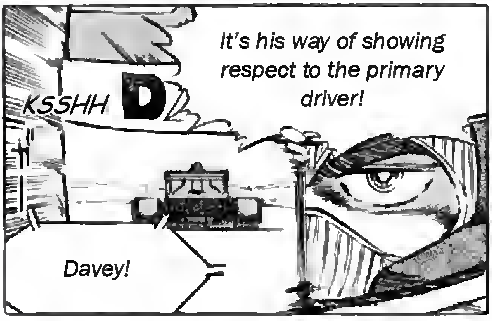

KSHH
Just have him do it.
What do you mean, Jesus!?

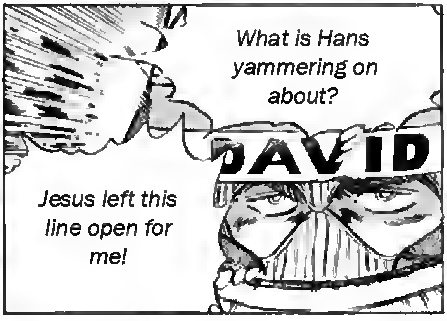
Tell David to change lines.
BEEP
Have him get off his usual line and take the one I'm on.

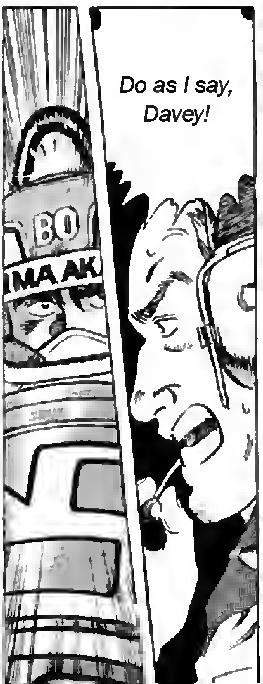

Come in, Davey. It's Hans.
You've got to change lines! Take the same one as Jesus!

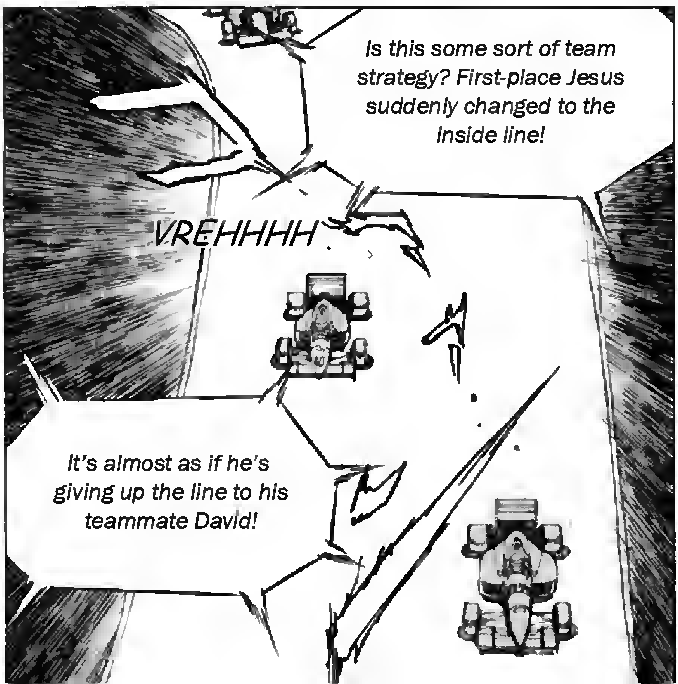

Hey! Jesus just changed lines!
DAVID

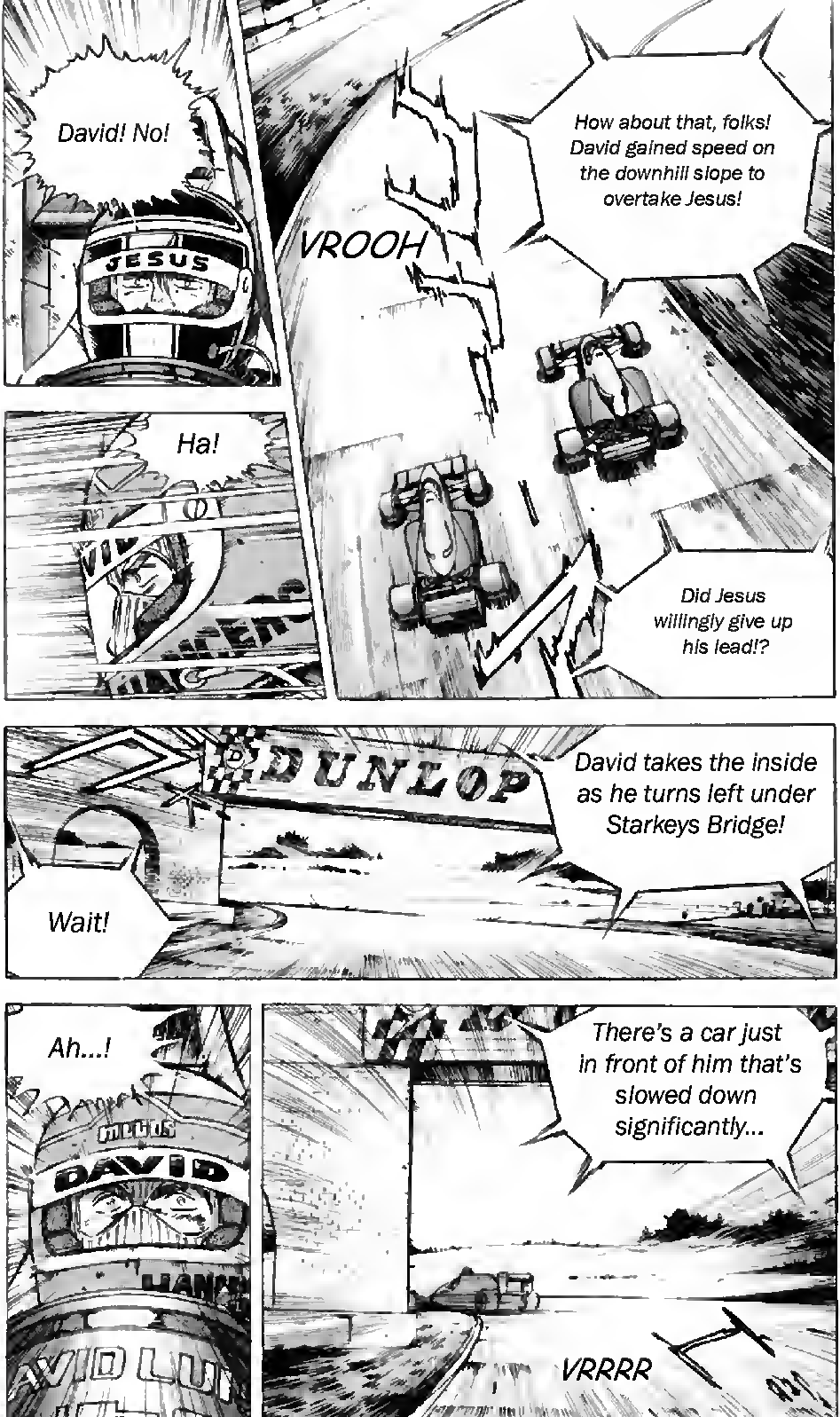

KSSHH
BEEP
Can you read me, Davey? You've got to change lines!


KSSHH
It's his way of showing respect to the primary driver!
Davey!

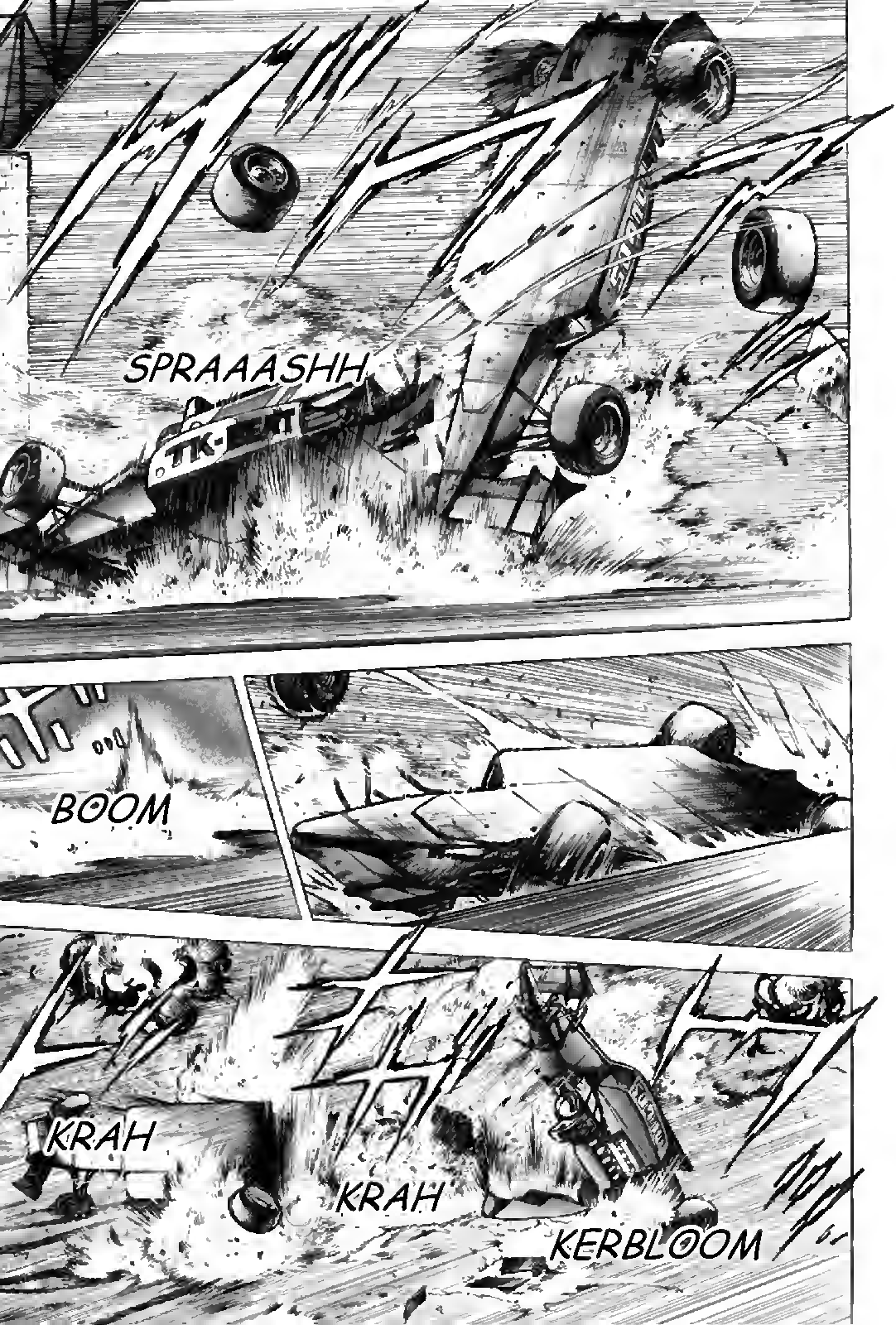

What is Hans yammering on about?
Jesus left this line open for me!

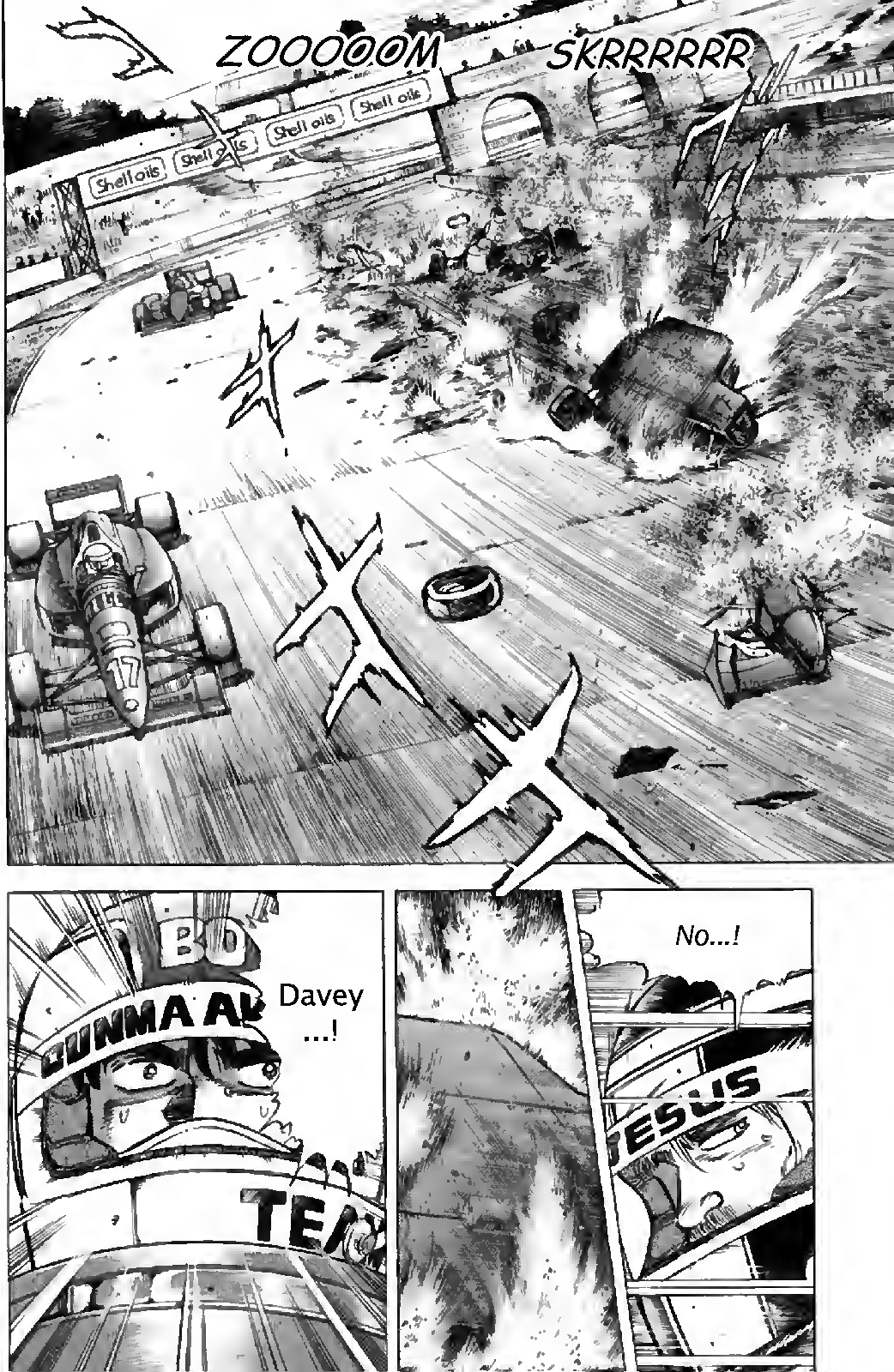

Do as I say, Davey!

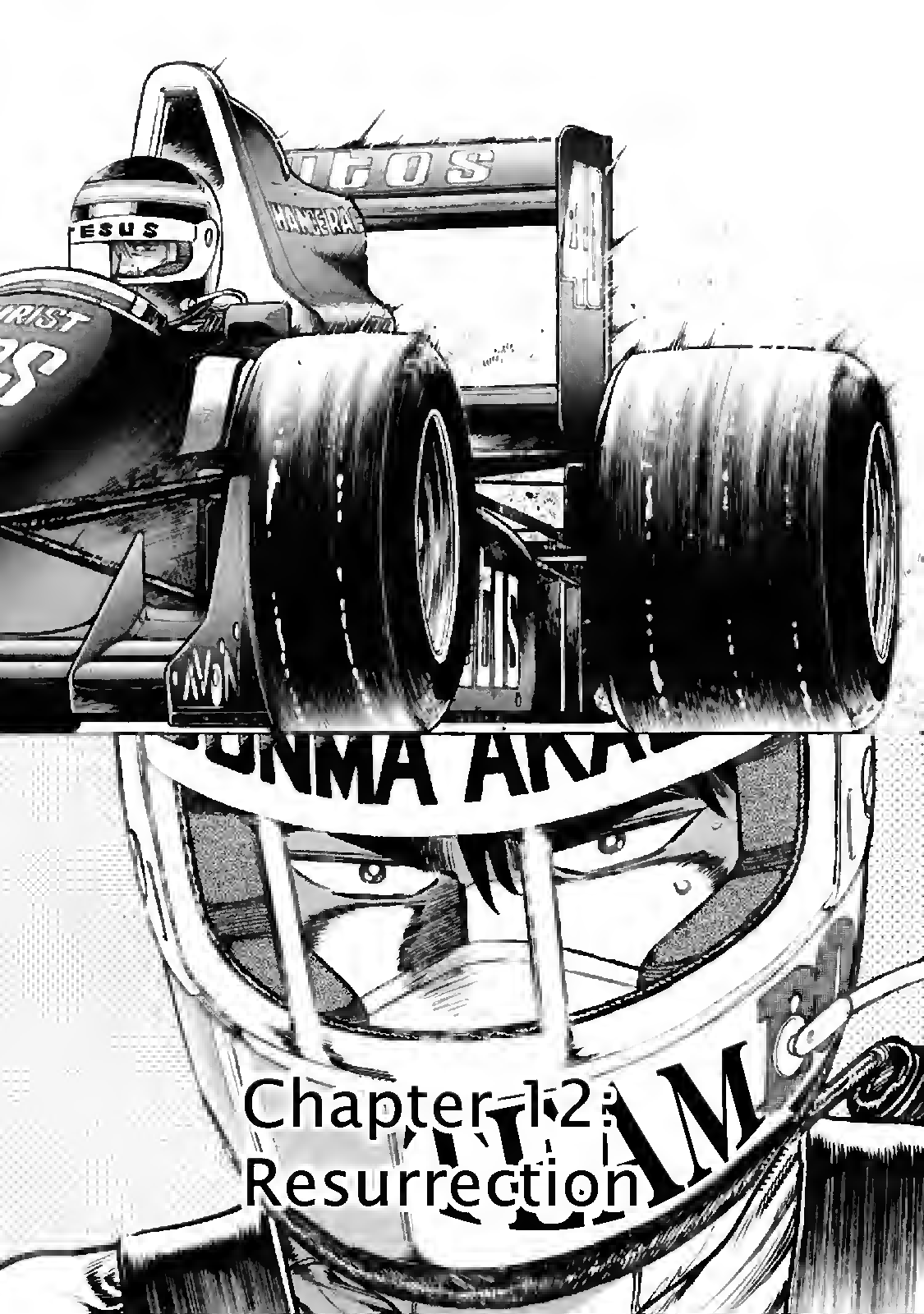

Is this some sort of team strategy? First-place Jesus suddenly changed to the inside line!
VREHHHH
It's almost as if he's giving up the line to his teammate David!

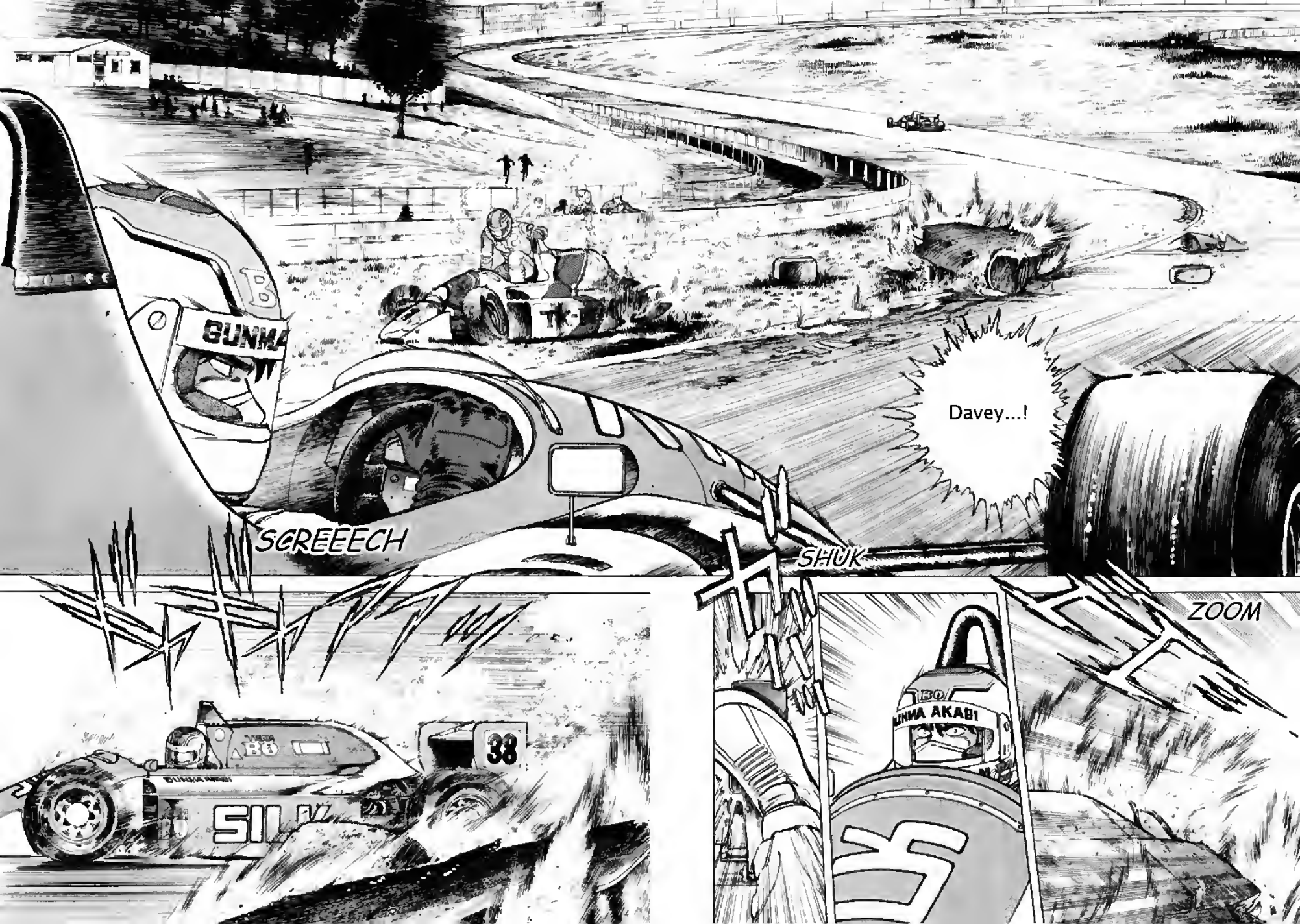

David! No!
JESUS
VROOH
How about that, folks! David gained speed on the downhill slope to overtake Jesus!
Ha!
Did Jesus willingly give up his lead!?
DUNLOP
David takes the inside as he turns left under Starkeys Bridge!
Wait!
Ah...!
DAVID
There's a car just in front of him that's slowed down significantly...
VRRRR

Hraaaagh!
BSHAAAAH

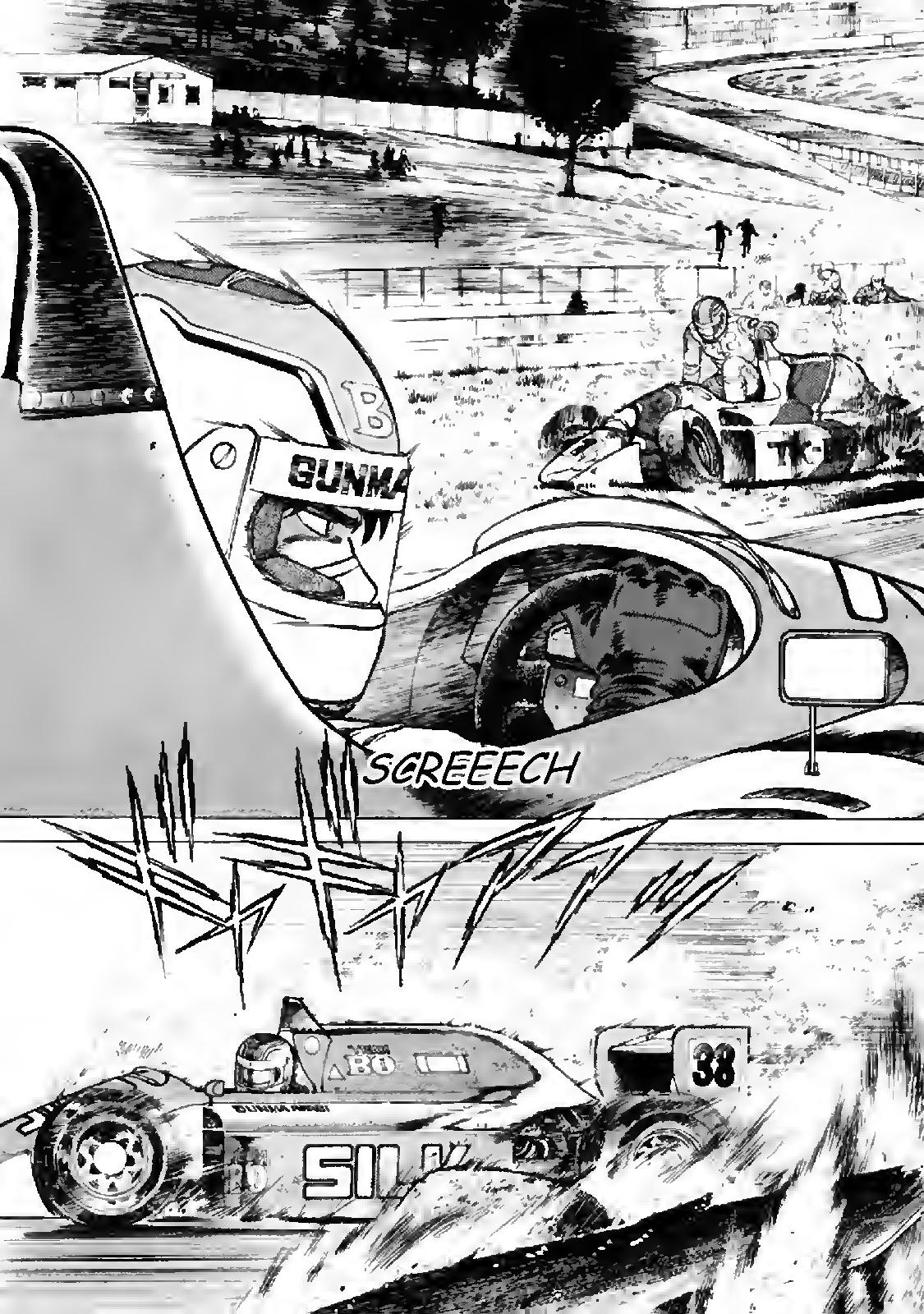

SPRAAASHH
BOOM
KRAH
KRAH
KERBLOOM


ZOOOOOM
SKRRRRRR
Shell oils
Shell oils
Shell oils
Shell oils
17
BO
LUNMA AL
TE
Davey ...!
No...!
JESUS


Chapter 12:
Resurrection

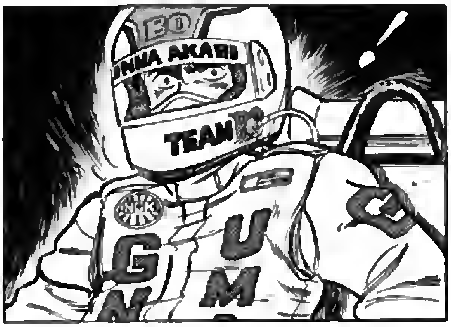

GUNMA
Davey...!
SCREEECH
SHUK
ZOOM
38
GUNMA AKABI

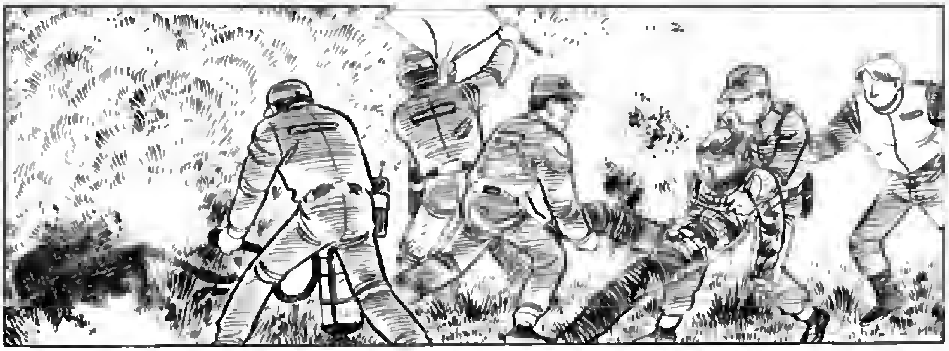
Davey...!
SHUK
ZOOM
BO
UNNA AKABI


GUNMA
SCREEECH
38

VROOH
SCREEECH
BRUM
CLICK
Da-
vey.
SILK
CHUK

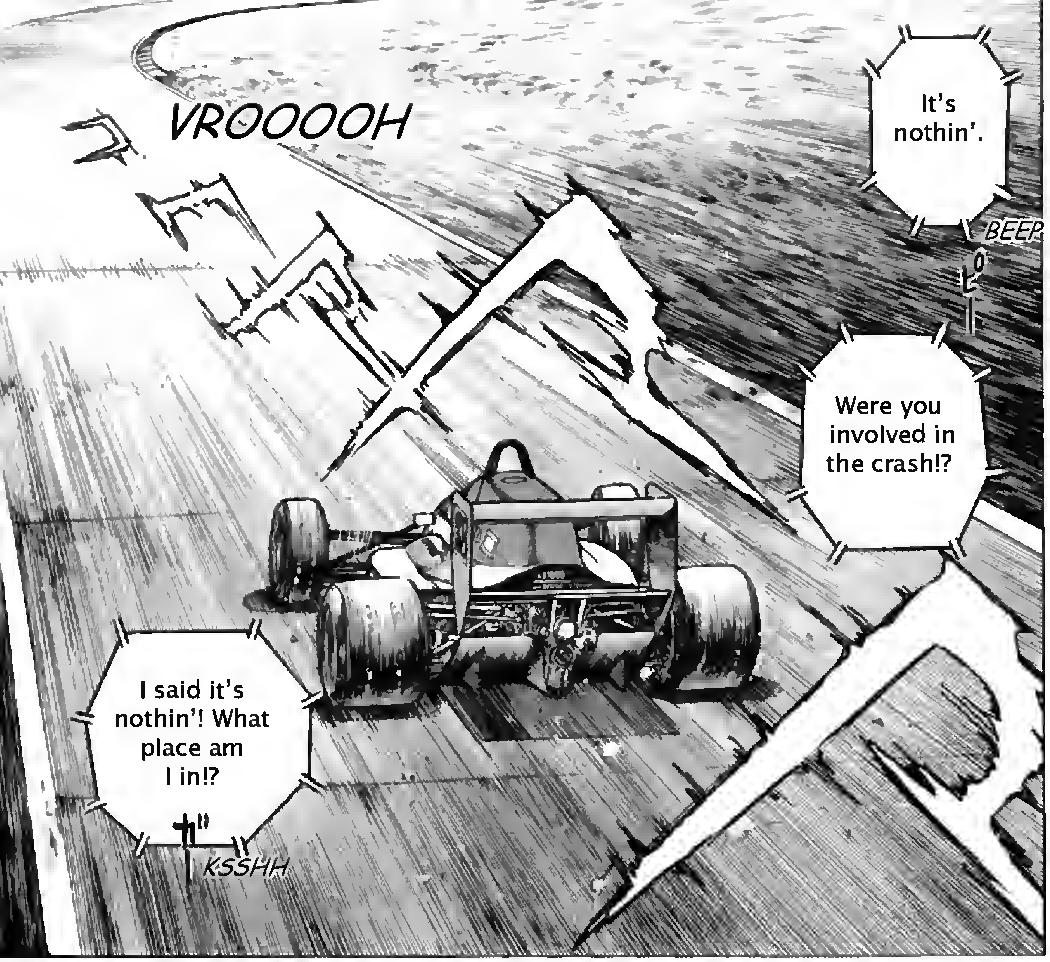
FWOOSH

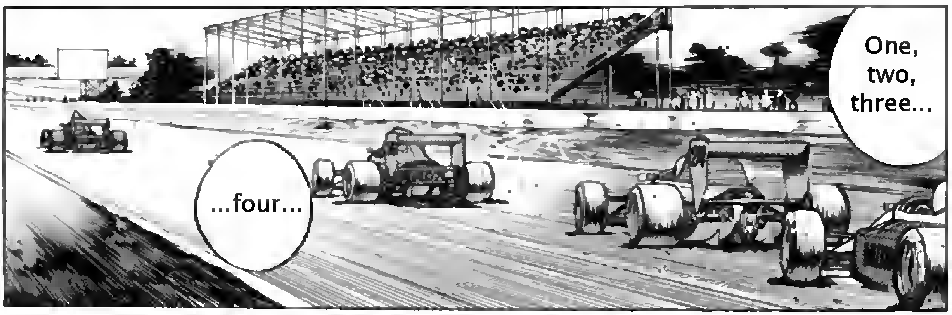

TEAM

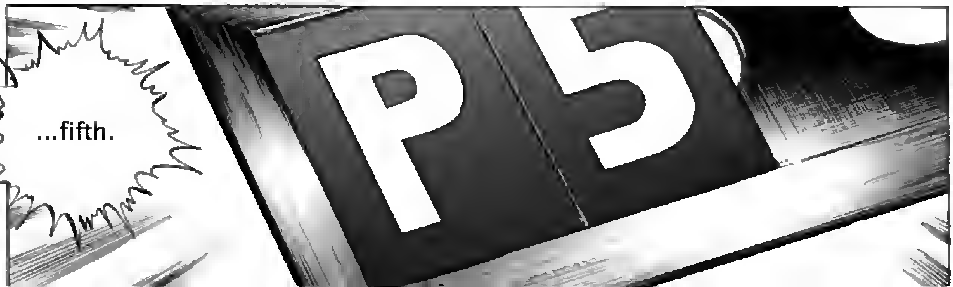


TEAM

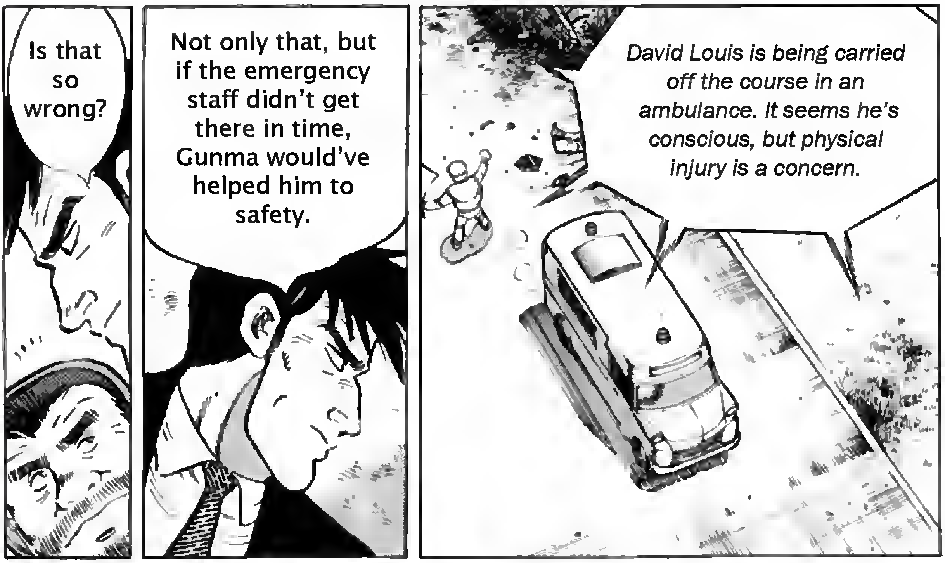
ZOOOM
He's...
...okay.
SILK
SLAM
ZOOOM
NMA AKAGI
Now I'm way behind!
You had me worried there!
Bastard...
BRAHH
Gunma!
KSSHH
What just happe-ned!?

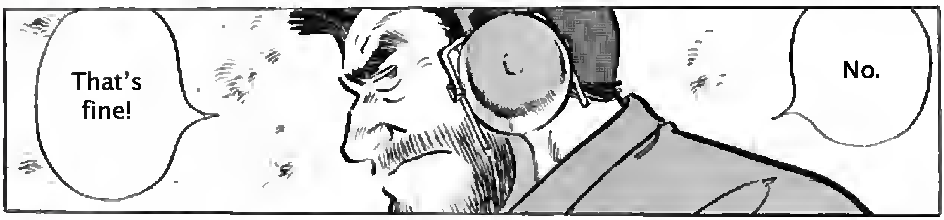

VROOOOH
It's nothin'.
BEEP
Were you involved in the crash!?
I said it's nothin'! What place am I in!?
KSSHH


One, two, three...
...four...

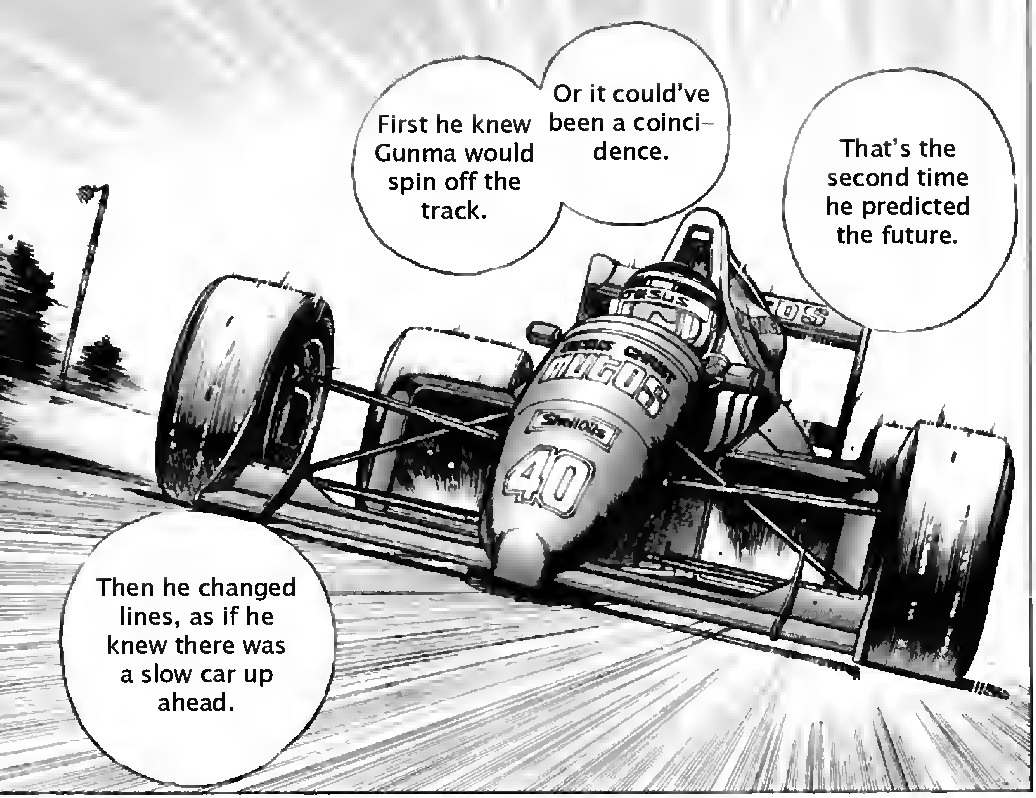

...fifth.
P5

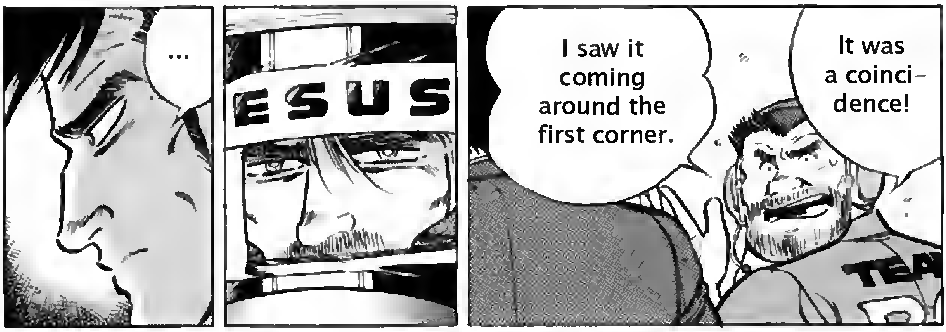
...he just wanted to check up on his former teammate.
FWOOSH
So...


Is that so wrong?
Not only that, but if the emergency staff didn't get there in time, Gunma would've helped him to safety.
David Louis is being carried off the course in an ambulance. It seems he's conscious, but physical injury is a concern.


That's fine!
No.

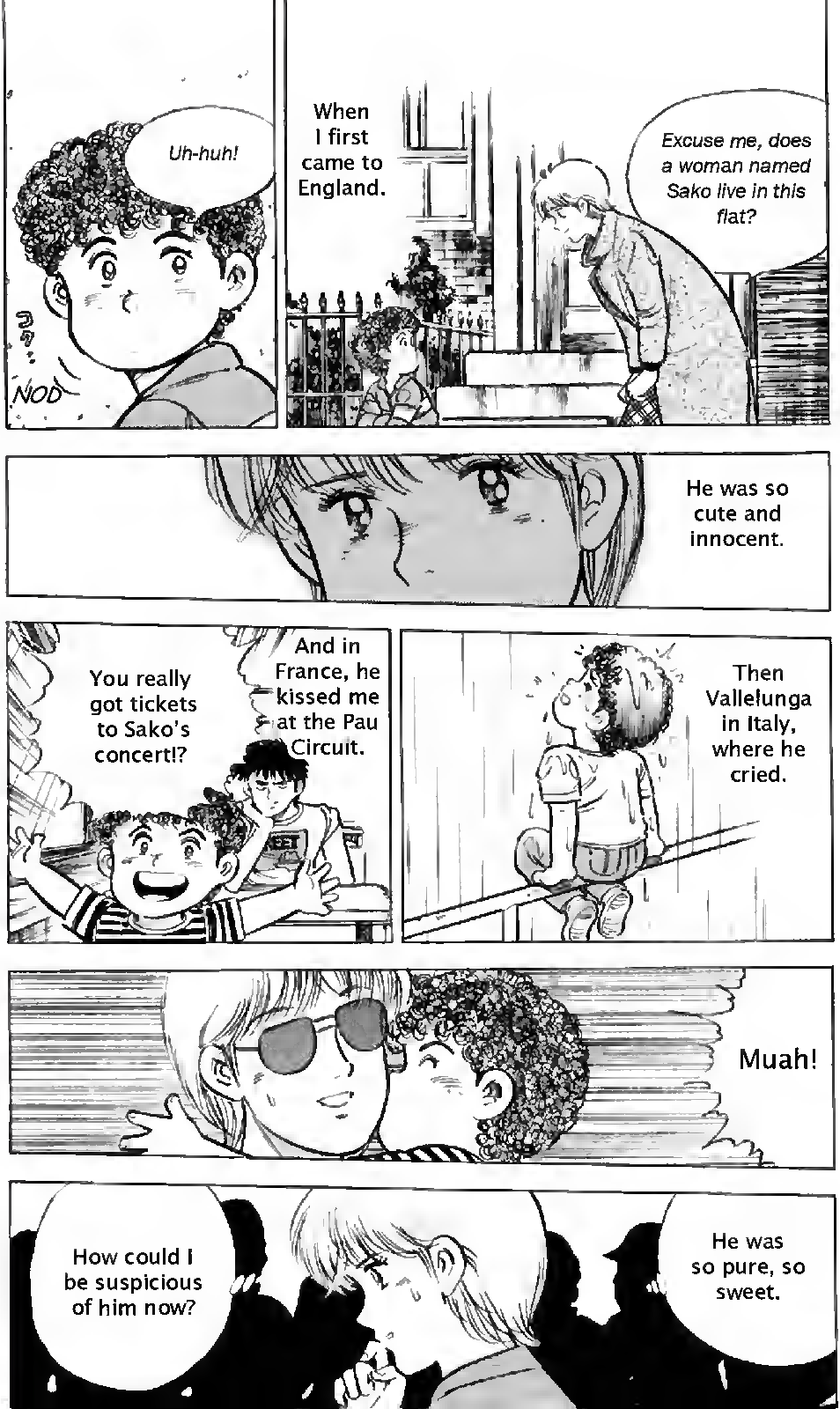
...is what Jesus did.
What's really got me curi-ous...


First he knew Gunma would spin off the track.
Or it could've been a coinci-dence.
That's the second time he predicted the future.
Then he changed lines, as if he knew there was a slow car up ahead.
40

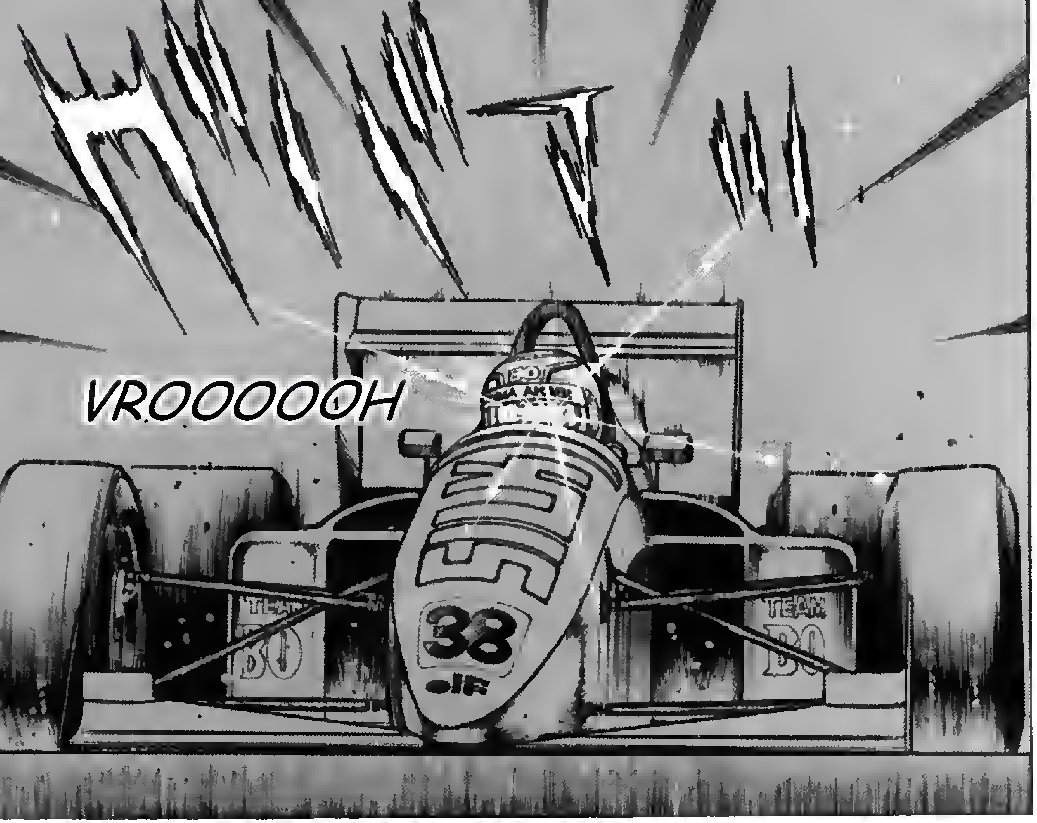

...
ESUS
I saw it coming around the first corner.
It was a coinci-dence!

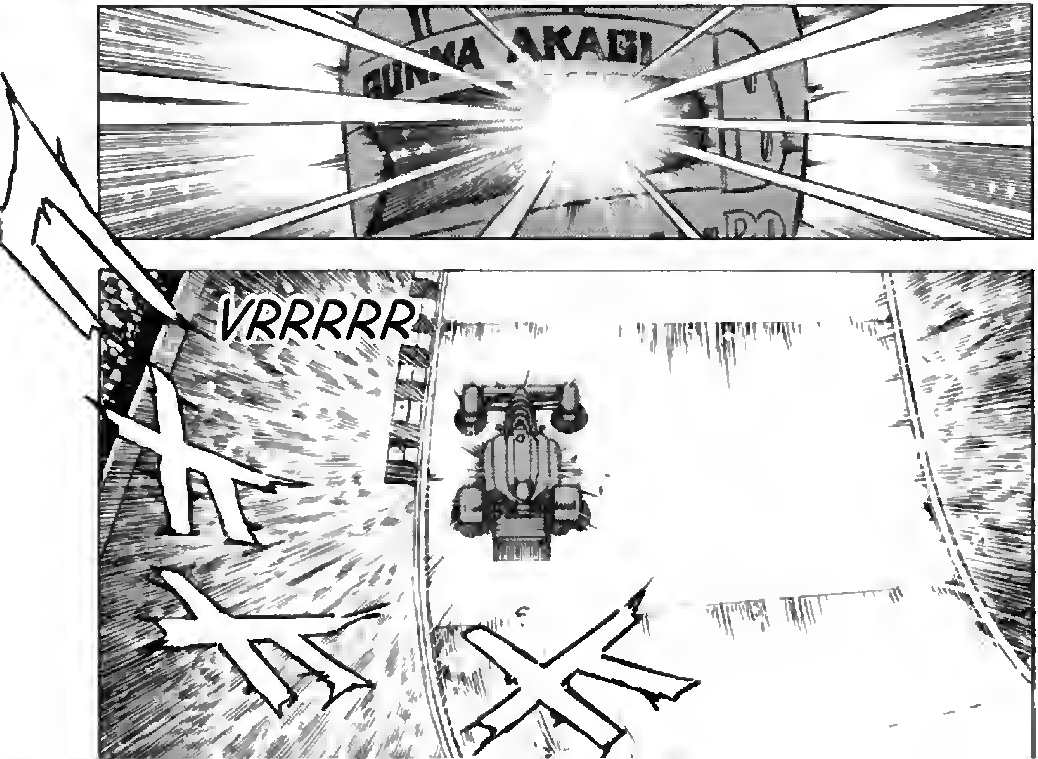
YAK
YAK
YAK
YAK
TEAM
BO
F1

That light Gunma saw at Coppice Corner was probably just a random reflection.
What am I so worried about?
There's no way I'll find Peabow in this crowd.
It's too pac-ked.
I got it in my head that he's trying to hurt Gunma.
I'm distrusting Peabow...
Pea-bow...

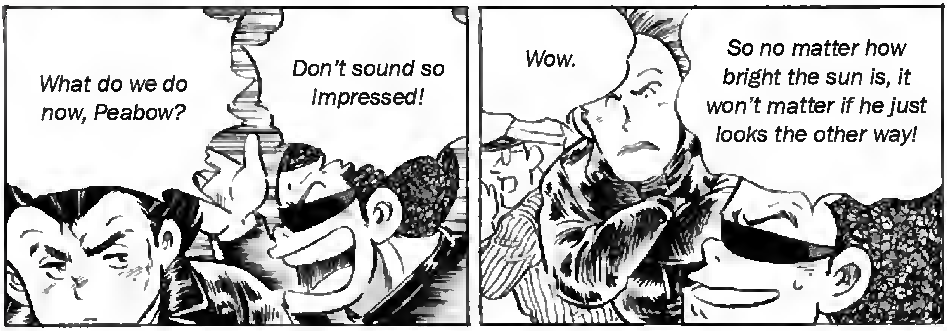

Uh-huh!
NOD
When I first came to England.
Excuse me, does a woman named Sako live in this flat?
He was so cute and innocent.
You really got tickets to Sako's concert!?
And in France, he kissed me at the Pau Circuit.
Then Vallelunga in Italy, where he cried.
Muah!
How could I be suspicious of him now?
He was so pure, so sweet.

WAAAHAAAH
You just don't get it, do you boy! You'll stop fussing if you don't want another swat to the bum!
SMACK
...
And it's my duty as your mum to give you a good swat for that! So which do you prefer, another swat to the bum, or behaving well again!?
I know you're really a good boy! 'Cause you're my son! But you lost your way over something silly!
Mother and son...
TEAM
BO
Pfff...
My hand hurts from that swat, you know.
That's my good boy. Now stop with the water works.

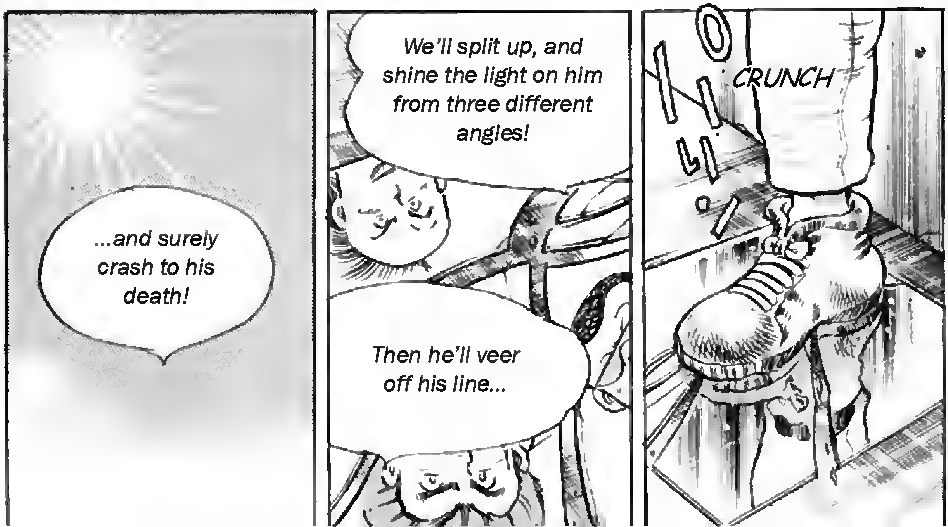

VROOOOOH
38


VRRRRR

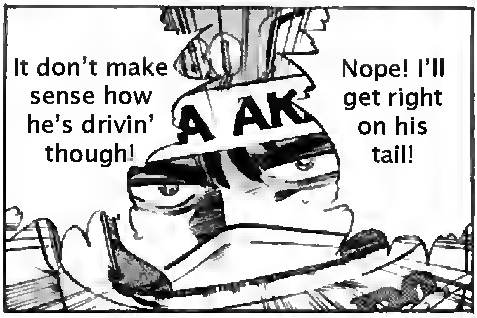
He must've looked the other way!
That's odd. Wasn't it bright enough?
Gunma just blew by like nothing happened.

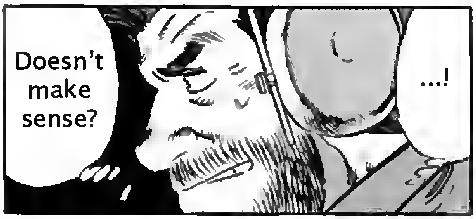

What do we do now, Peabow?
Don't sound so impressed!
Wow.
So no matter how bright the sun is, it won't matter if he just looks the other way!

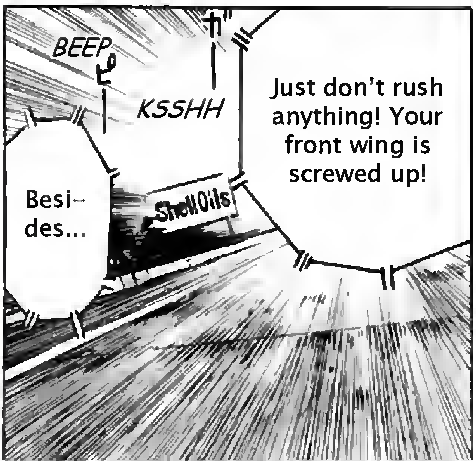
We'll change spots! Vision is extremely important to a race car driver, they always have to focus on landmarks like braking points and where to speed up!
Don't worry. Picking Coppice Corner was just the wrong decision.

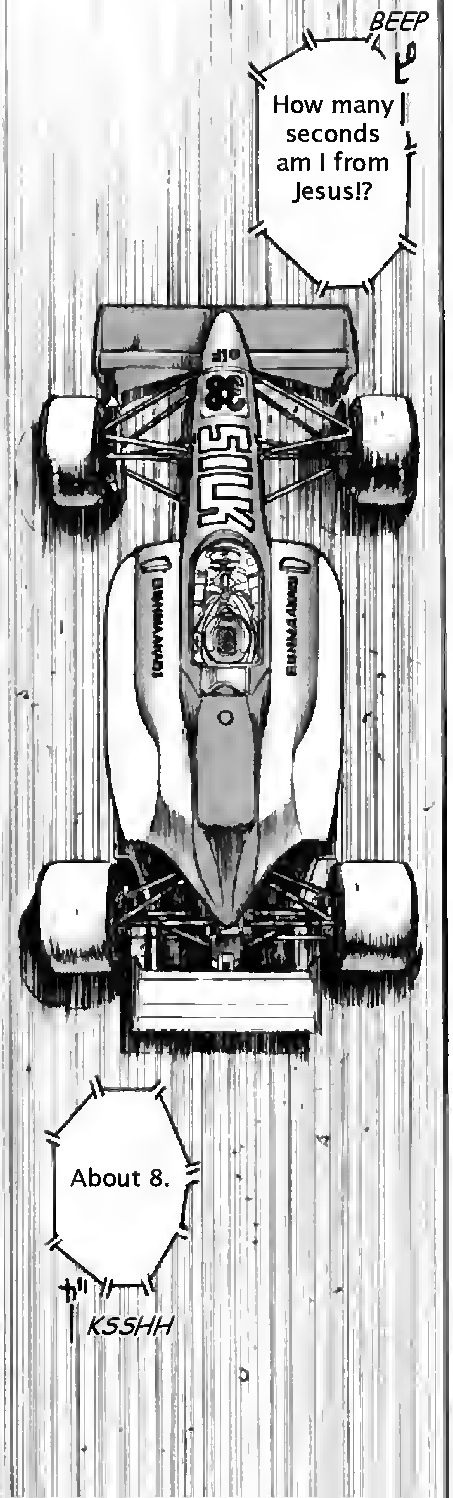

...and surely crash to his death!
We'll split up, and shine the light on him from three different angles!
Then he'll veer off his line...
CRUNCH

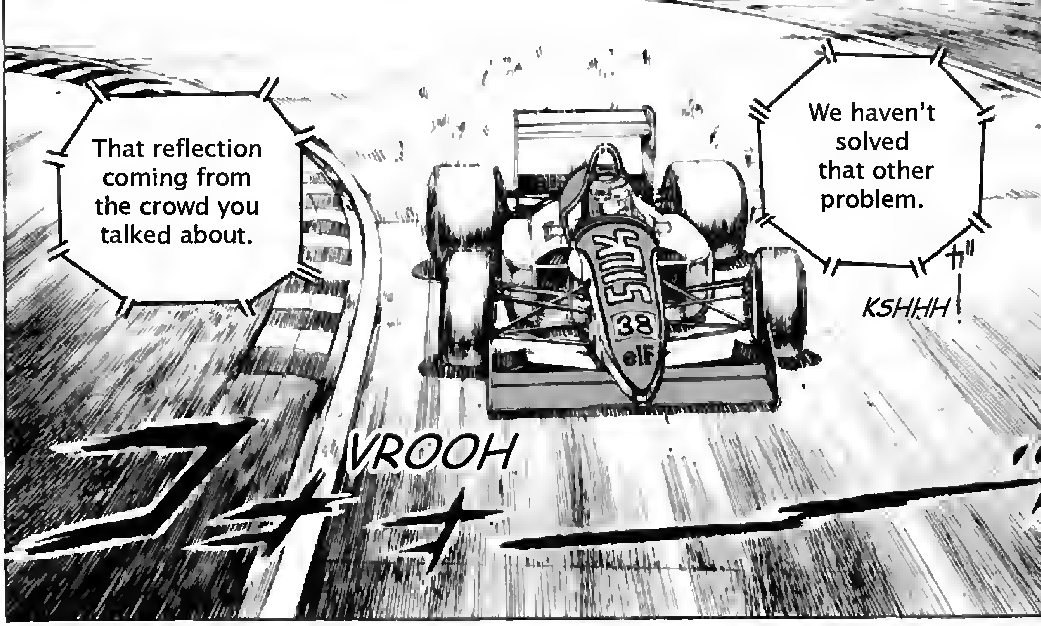
Time to step on it then!
Don't overdo it, just be smart!
AKABI

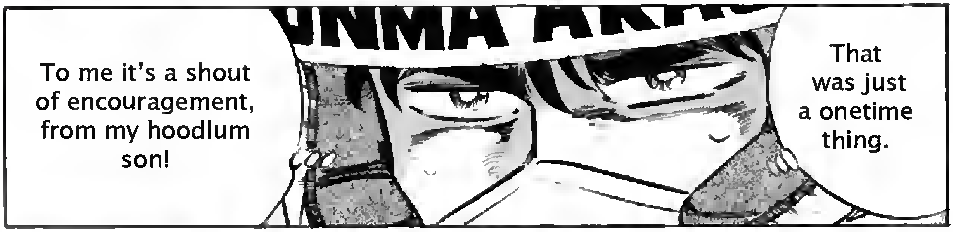

It don't make sense how he's drivin' though!
Nope! I'll get right on his tail!
AK

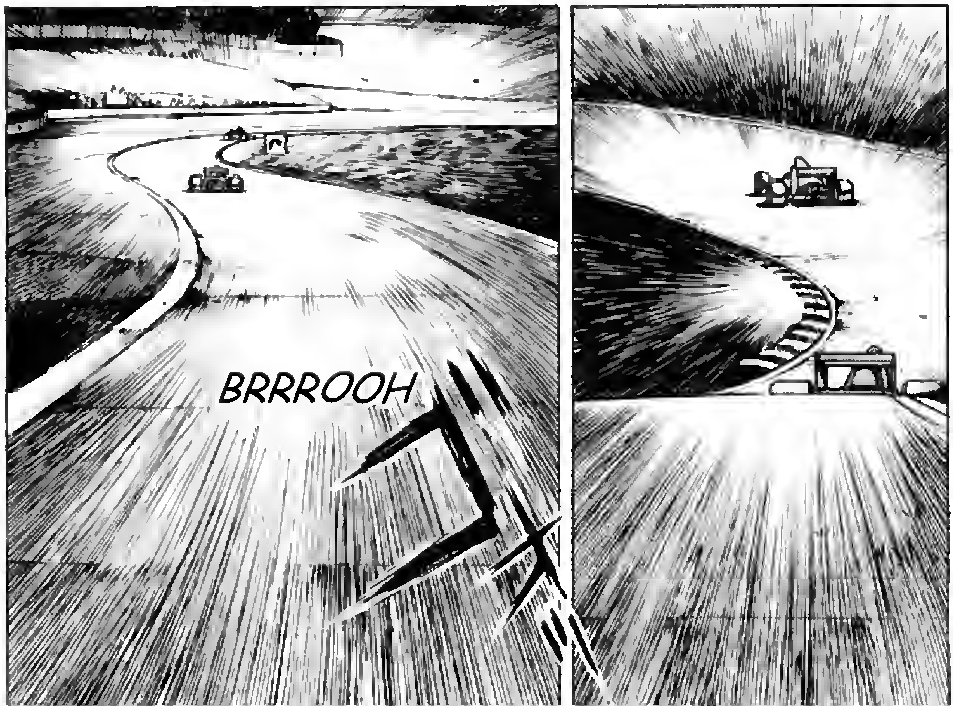

Doesn't make sense?
...!


BEEP
KSSHH
Just don't rush anything! Your front wing is screwed up!
Besi-des...
Shell Oils

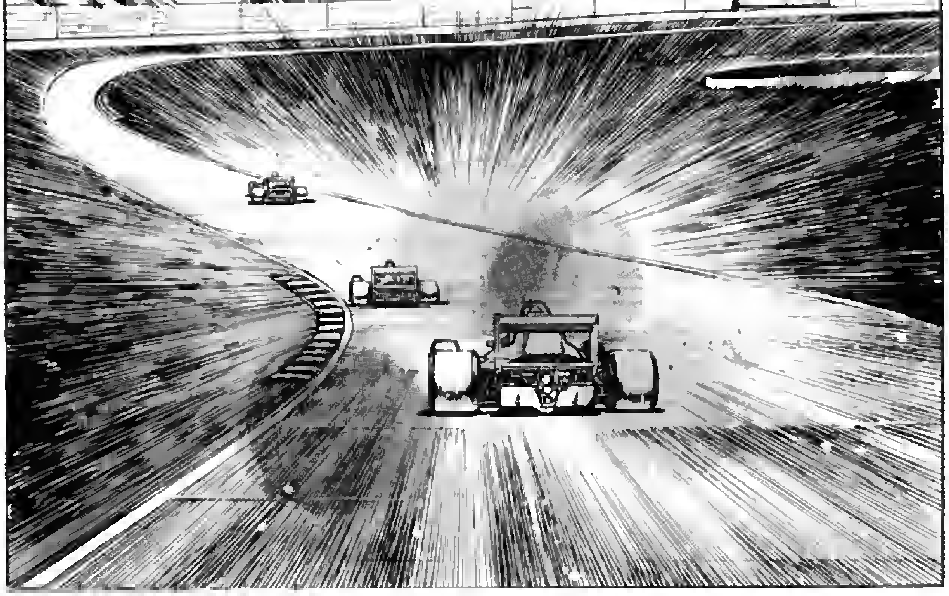

BEEP
How many seconds am I from Jesus!?
About 8.
KSSHH

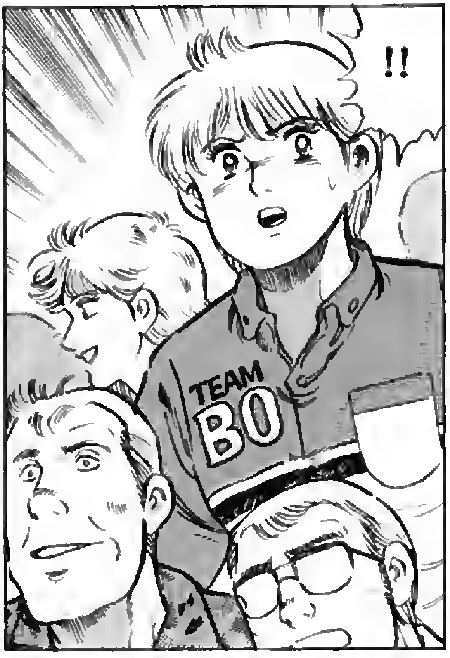

That reflection coming from the crowd you talked about.
We haven't solved that other problem.
KSHHH!
VROOH


To me it's a shout of encouragement, from my hoodlum son!
That was just a onetime thing.


BRRROOH

KRUK
FLASH
Peace.
ZOOOH
TEAM
BO
MA·AKA
A bloody peace sign?
What the...





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